Daily Report

Latin America

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FBIS-LAT-94-183 *21 September 1994*

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Cuba

Alarcon Sees Haiti 'Invasion' as Collaboration

FL2009234594 Havana Radio Reloj Network in Spanish 1932 GMT 20 Sep 94

[Text] ANPP President Ricardo Alarcon stated to Radio Havana Cuba on 20 September that the invasion of Haiti violates sacred principles of international law. He added that the arrival of U.S. soldiers amounts to a foreign invasion, with grave consequences for Latin America, and a manipulation of the UN.

Alarcon stressed that the agreement reached last weekend between the United States and the coupist military leaders, in which the UN did not participate, has permitted the landing of U.S. troops, not to confront the military anymore, but to reconcile with the military, who supposedly have received guarantees.

Alarcon agreed that the level of casualties has been reduced in this manner, but that the invasion violates two sacred principles. He stated that perhaps this would cause less bloodshed, but that United States has completely trampled the principle of nonintervention, Haiti's sovereignty, and even the authority of the UN Security Council.

Alarcon stated that the invasion had never been intended to confront coup leader General Raoul Cedras, defeat him, and install another government. The real goal, he added, is to organize Haiti's future in concert with Cedras. In this way, the United States could be getting involved in a process similar to that of the the 1915 intervention, which lasted for 20 years.

Culture Minister on Situation With U.S.

PA2109000794 Havana PRENSA LATINA in Spanish 1056 GMT 17 Sep 94

[First of a two-part "exclusive" interview with Culture Minister Armando Hart by Jose Dos Santos, PRENSA LATINA contributor and vice president of the Cuban Journalists Union, in Havana; date not given]

[Text] Havana—Several articles published of late in the Cuban press have again portrayed him as a restless and modern thinker, open to controversies and analyses, and defender of the national identity and culture. This is Armando Hart, witness to and participant in the Cuban people's revolutionary legend.

Nowadays, beyond his role as culture minister, he is concerned about issues unnoticed by those who can see the Cuban situation only through lenses ground by the foreign media.

This is why he was determined to talk with this journalist and "to reach all of those living abroad who are interested in Cuba," even "those who have other ideas."

In his opinion, recent events define even more clearly what has been termed the Cuban-U.S. dispute, which threatens the very foundations of the Cuban nation. We started the interview off on this issue.

[Hart] I believe we are living in times in which there has been a change in the way in which this dispute is approached. The eight previous U.S. administrations based their arguments on the fact that Cuba had joined forces with a power outside the continent.

These arguments were among those that were taken into account as the OAS made exclusionary decisions in the early 1960's, just because we had a communist system opposed to what it allowed in the Western hemisphere. This position has already become obsolete; this is an issue suitable for historical analysis, not current political affairs. Insisting on clinging to that idea is dogmatic and irrelevant to the requirements of practical contemporary policies.

There is much talk about being in a post-modernist phase (this phrase seems inaccurate and confusing). They say this in order to ignore the crisis in the predominant system, especially in ethical issues. Capitalism has not perished yet, but because the most common and vulgar type of capitalism has been imposed in the East and West, international society has already lost its ethical principles.

This reality is explained by recent events, which surprised many people and which were dubbed the "rafters case."

[Dos Santos] How is that anti-ethical phenomenon you mentioned manifest?

[Hart] The U.S. propaganda system, which now spends more money on Cuba than what used to be spent on Eastern Europe, has traditionally urged Cubans to go to the United States. It refused to accept normal immigration policies, which we promoted and agreed to in 1984. But those who arrived there illegally were treated as great personalities, protected by a law dating back to the mid-1960's (Cuban Adjustment Law).

Suddenly, this policy became obsolete. Washington decided to take the illegal immigrants to Guantanamo and other places, because it refuses to give them permission to enter the United States. It is now blaming us for the illegal emigration. It changed the propaganda completely.

To my way of thinking, this circumstance marks the beginning of a new era and explains what has always been U.S. policy: tarnishing the Cuban fatherland and traditions, especially Cuban independence.

They can no longer resolve the dispute if Cuba stops being socialist; now they pretend that the Cuban nation does not exist.

[Dos Santos] What factors are you taking into consideration in making that statement?

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[Hart] Certain things become obvious when the current administration is seen agreeing with the Mafia and fascist group headed by Mas Canosa (president of the Cuban American Foundation) and promotes repressive measures against those leaving and even paralyzes exchanges between Cubans in Miami and people here. From that moment on, bilateral differences reveal clearly and bluntly the intention of annihilating the nation.

Despite the political and philosophical differences we have had with many Cubans in Miami, we want to talk to some of them to see if we can face together the problem of defending our nation, because many among them have not lost the Cuban sentiment.

Placing Cubans in concentration camps (they would not call it that in their propaganda) in Guantanamo or wherever or preventing contacts among relatives here and there, already signals a clear and permanent attack on our very nationhood.

[Dos Santos] What else can be seen in these objectives?

[Hart] What I said before has to be connected to ideas that serve to negate, more than to ignore, what was taught in school before 1959, from Cespedes (Carlos Manuel Cespedes, patriot who led the 10-year war against Spanish rule) until the patriotic struggles... They say that Cuba does not exist, that is a fantasy.

A future utopia can be created. It can either be rational or irrational, but one can speculate based on one's perception of the future. But when one creates a utopia that becomes a fallacy within the context of historical events, one is actually trying to destroy that history.

In this they are mistaken. In the USSR, for example, history had a profound effect. Very painful, serious, and complex things happened there that could have served as pretext for that destruction. But the history of socialism and Leninism in Russia was also not necessarily that country's previous history.

Our history in this century, however, is a continuation of the history of Marti (Jose Marti, Cuba's national hero), Maceo (Antonio Maceo, legendary military leader of the struggle for liberation), and the wars of independence...besides, we did not commit here the errors made there. It is a different matter here, and Cuba's friends and foes must really keep this in mind.

[Dos Santos] What would it mean to attempt to implement in Cuba a formula that distorts, manipulates, and warps reality and its backdrop?

[Hart] Destroying history here means destroying a country. The modern world cannot allow that attempt to cause the disintegration of the Cuban nation.

Those saying that Cuba's historical process did not happen that way, that this is a utopia, are using flawed arguments. Our nation had the right to choose a path of most advanced socialist thought. What some are seeking is not just denying us that right but annihilating as a nation.

Cuba is a country united on social matters. Internal problems are created from outside, unlike other countries born of a diversity of nationalities, multiple ethnic groups, customs, and characteristics.

It is a very serious mistake to create that kind of problem artificially from the outside; this is now exacerbated by Washington's measures and propaganda.

Attempts are being made to take apart one of the most integrated nations in the contemporary world. This nation is greatly identified with Latin America, because we are part of Latin American and part of the Caribbean.

I invite world politicians to coldly analyze this problem. An attempt is being made to take apart a national entity.

[Dos Santos] Do the conditions exist to successfully confront the attacks you have denounced?

[Hart] Cuba is a country with a deep sense of patriotism, but it does not have extreme nationalists. It does not harbor hatred. It can engage in passionate confrontation, but it does not commit horrendous crimes. During the neocolonial republic, two governments proclaimed as despotic (Gerardo Machado and Fulgencio Batista) wound up prompting a social revolution.

Cubans cannot accept injustice. We pay tribute here every year to those School of Medicine students who were arbitrarily prosecuted by colonialists and shot in 1871. That crime is commemorated every year, which goes to show we do not pardon actions of this kind.

What the Cuban nation represents traditionally is embodied by Marti and the anti-imperialist movement.... This is a popular tradition, and there is no other.

The bourgeois groups generated by imperialism since the birth of the republic were not consolidated and did not represent the nation. No wealthy group has represented this country, because even our forefathers such as Cespedes renounced the possibility of the existence of a new bourgeois class by joining with the slaves. That was his greatness, to join the people.

Thereafter, the process became radical. The backbone of this country is the working and exploited masses. This popular movement forged the Cuban nation.

This was not the case in Europe, where the bourgeoisie promoted capitalism and created the nation, state, and diverse components of its national culture. In Cuba, by virtue of economic evolution, we are facing the existence of slavery and foreign intervention.

The democratic ideas of the French Revolution—liberty, equality, and fraternity—led to a rightist interpretation in other places, while the Cuban utopia consists of adopting such postulates seriously.

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Mexican Foreign Minister Meets Castro, Alarcon

FL2009210594 Havana Tele Rebelde Network in Spanish 0000 GMT 20 94

[From the "NTV" newscast]

[Text] Commander in Chief Fidel Castro met for more than two hours with visiting Mexican Foreign Minister Manuel Tello Macias. Present in the meeting were the Mexican ambassador, [words indistinct], as well as Cuban Foreign Minister Roberto Robaina. During the meeting, the Mexican foreign minister extended a warm greeting from President Carlos Salinas de Gortari. In the meeting, issues to be analyzed in the sessions of the Cuban-Mexican Intergovernmental Mixed Commission were discussed.

Minister Tello today began his official activities in Cuba. Reporter Hector Martinez reports:

[Martinez] The Mexican foreign minister began his first day of work at Havana's Plaza de la Revolucion, where he placed a floral wreath at the Jose Marti National Monument. The Mexican delegation later participated in the inauguration of the sixth meeting of the Cuban-Mexican Intergovernmental Mixed Commission, which will be meeting for two days in the National Hotel in Havana. These meetings offer an excellent opportunity for specialists and businessmen from both countries to study the progress of bilateral cooperation, discuss issues such as the economy, trade, science, culture, and sports, and to outline strategies for the immediate future.

Foreign Minister Robaina expressed the Cuban people's eternal gratitude to Mexico, extolling their abundant courage, clarity, and honesty in not subscribing to the U.S. policies toward Cuba. Robaina praised Mexico for keeping a route open for Cuba to access resources vital to its existence and economic development.

Manuel Tello also met this morning with Carlos Lage, executive secretary of the Council of Ministers, and with Vice President Jose Ramon Fernandez, with whom he exchanged viewpoints on many issues of bilateral interest. At midday, Tello went to the Ministry of Foreign Investment and Economic Cooperation where he met with Minister Ernesto Melendez who provided him with a detailed explanation of current economic conditions and foreign investment opportunities in Cuba.

Tello visited the National Assembly of the People's Government [ANPP] this afternoon, where he spoke with ANPP President Ricardo Alarcon about the recently concluded U.S.-Cuba immigration talks, and as this report was being completed, Manuel Tello was participating in a reception in his honor at the Mexican Embassy in Havana.

[Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish at 1700 GMT on 20 September adds that Tello expressed the Mexican Government's congratulations to Fidel Castro for participating in the Tlatelalco Treaty and on the recent migration agreement between Havana and Washington.]

PRENSA LATINA Reports Accord To Pay Off Debt With Mexico

PA2109032594 Havana PRENSA LATINA in Spanish 0113 GMT 21 Sep 94

[Text] Havana, 20 Sep (PL)—Cuba's $340 million debt with Mexico will be canceled with the signature and implementation of an agreement for the processing of crude oil at the Cienfuegos Refinery, located 330 km east of the capital.

The operation includes the purchase of 49 percent of the refinery's stocks by the Mexican consortium, Mexpetrol. Mexican Foreign Minister Manuel Tello said the refinery's production will gradually reduce the Cuban debt until it is totaly canceled.

With the creation of the new joint enterprise, Mexico's investments in Cuba will exceed $1 billion, a figure that tends to increase in the degree the joint project for the improvement of the local telephone service is implemented with an investment of $1.55 billion over the next six years, he added.

Cuban-Mexican joint enterprises include the areas of communications, tourism, oil, glass, cement, and construction materials.

Radio Notes Mexico Reviewing U.S. Immigration Plan

FL2009185694 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 1700 GMT 20 Sep 94

[From the "National Radio News"]

[Text] The Mexican Foreign Relations Secretariat is reviewing Washington's plan to stop the flow of undocumented Mexicans into the United States. Official reports indicate that the authorities will continue studying implications of the plan. In case it affects individual liberties, Carlos Salinas de Gortari's government will present a formal proposal to the U.S. Administration.

U.S. Blockade on Medicine Viewed as 'Great Harm'

PA2009033494 Havana Radio Havana Cuba in Spanish 0100 GMT 17 Sep 94

[Report by Guillermo Alvarado from the "Evening Information Review" newscast]

[Text] The implementation of the blockade on medicines and medical equipment has caused great harm to the country's social sector, aside from the economic effects.

As is widely known, Cuba recently suffered from an epidemic of pneuropathy. The air freight cost to ship from Europe the vitamins and raw materials used to manufacture the tablets needed by the sick people and

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administered to the rest of the population as a preventive measure amounted to $237,448. Had the blockade not prevented access to the U.S. market and affiliated branches of U.S. companies in nearby countries, the cost of the shipment would have been $55,900, which would have entailed a savings of $181,500 to Cuba.

According to information supplied by Cuban Health Ministry authorities, a contract was signed for the acquisition of three products to fight this disease which, including the air freight charge, cost more than $1,938 for each purchase made from a European distributor. To get a better idea of the damage caused to Cuba by the blockade, Cuban specialists reviewed the price catalogue of the U.S. company Sigma, including the air freight cost from that country to Cuba, and determined that the purchase price for these same three products would have been $827, which is 134 percent less than what was paid.

There are many examples in this regard to illustrate the situation. One of the drugs used in the treatment of cardiovascular diseases, (?nitroglycerine), costs Havana $120,067 per kg, while the catalogue from Parker International Export of Miami lists a price that is 81 percent cheaper. With the money Cuba would not have had to spend because of the blockade, it could have obtained diverse products, such as bovine amniotic fluid, which is excellent and essential for conducting tests on pregnant women to detect possible fetal anomalies.

Despite everything, Cuba has achieved great development in the field of health, as is recognized even by scientific authorities of industrialized countries and diverse international organizations, such as UNESCO, the World Food Program, WHO, and others.

All of the standards the United Nations recognizes as desirable for Third World countries to face the new century were fulfilled and exceeded in Cuba several years ago. Some aspects, such as genetic engineering and biotechnology, are at the level of those of developing countries, notwithstanding the serious harm caused by the blockade.

French Ambassador: Economic Ties 'Will Increase'

FL1909235194 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 2300 GMT 16 Sep 94

[From the "Exclusive" program]

[Text] Jean Raphael Dufour, French ambassador to Cuba, stated on 16 September that economic relations between France and Cuba will increase in the near future. He noted that trade between the two nations totalled aproximatelly $180 million during 1993. Dufour affirmed the interest of French businessmen during a presentation ceremony of (Pernaud Riccard) products to the Cuban market on the evening of 16 September in the National Hotel in Havana.

The French industry, (Pernaud Riccard), one of the most prestigious in the world, and the Cuban business (Havana Ron Liquors) form the joint enterprise, Havana Club International, which introduced Cuban honey distillation products and Cuban rum to the international market.

Minister of the food industry, Alejandro Roca, stated that the joint enterprise with the French business was created in accordance with the [words indistinct] of the French and Cuban Governments, the business relations between both countries, and the benefits provided by France in the way of credits and French exports, for the purchase of food in Cuba, currently totalling approximately $240 million pesos, which will increase in 1995.

Bolivian Envoy Discusses Cooperation Accords

FL2109000294 Havana Radio Reloj Network in Spanish 1945 GMT 20 Sep 94

[Text] Franklin Anaya Vasquez, Bolivia's ambassador to Cuba, stated on 20 September that relations between the two countries are excellent, as indicated by important cooperation agreements.

Anaya told the media about the signing of the aeronautical agreement during the recent visit by Cuban Foreign Minister Roberto Robaina. This agreement will make it possible for Cubana Airline to fly to La Paz, and for Lloyd Bolivian Airline to fly to Havana.

Anaya added that there were also advances in education and cultural exchange, and that both countries have agreed to mutual recognition of university degrees. Additionally, Anaya stated that collaboration in the scientific sector is important, citing a project in which Cuba would provide equipment for the university hospital being constructed in Cochabamba.

New Australian Ambassador Urges Stronger Ties

FL2009155094 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 1700 GMT 19 Sep 94

[From the "National Radio News"]

[Text] (Richard Broynoski), Australian ambassador to Cuba with residence in Mexico, has presented his credentials to the Cuban Government. (Broynoski) told AIN [National News Agency] following the ceremony that Australia is interested in stronger relations with Cuba. (Broynoski) said that it is time for nations to share their experiences with the rest of the world and that Australian Government experiences might be of interest. (Broynoski) pointed out that Cuba has an important sugarcane industry and good land and is a leader in the sports and culture sectors, in which we could establish relations. (Broynoski) added that even though there is a great distance between Cuba and Australia, they are very similar with regards to the sugarcane industry and in agricultural and sugarcane resources. (Broynoski) said that his country could learn many things from Cuba and

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that no one can prohibit that we strengthen our relations because people have a right to think and act however they want.

Foreign Ministry Official on Transferring Political Models

PA2009143894 Havana PRENSA LATINA in Spanish 2041 GMT 19 Sep 94

[Text] Havana, 19 Sep (PL)—The official mouthpiece of Cuba's workers today denied that there was only one formula for democracy and opined that it is impossible "to transfer models of political organization from one country to another."

In an article signed by Foreign Ministry Legal Director Jose Peraza, the weekly TRABAJADORES stated "it does not befit regional or international organizations to become entities that judge a state's regime or system."

The article referred to demands "by governments of other Latin American countries" that the island make "internal changes," which in fact constitutes "meddling in Cuba's internal affairs."

It is also a violation of the precepts in documents that govern the region that have been accepted by states in the hemispheres, Dr. Peraza noted.

"They want these changes to follow patterns created by other countries, claiming that they are democratic, as if democracy were not the expression of each people's sovereign right to choice, based on its characteristics, historic experience, and own system," he said.

"Accepting those mechanisms would be akin to authorizing some people to make decisions on matters that correspond to the sovereignty of each country," the legal expert stated.

Peraza noted that "the OAS Charter even states that international order is constituted by respect for individuality, sovereignty, and independence."

Cuba Elected Vice President of IAEA Conference

FL2009120194 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 2300 GMT 19 Sep 94

[From the "Exclusive" program]

[Text] Cuba has been elected vice president of the 38th International Atomic Energy Agency's [IAEA] general conference on Latin America and the Caribbean region, which opened its annual meeting in Vienna on 19 September. IAEA Director General Hans Blix announced during the inauguration the principal topics to be discussed, including nuclear affairs on the Korean Peninsula, plutonium trafficking in Europe, and the creation of a nuclear-free zone in the Middle East and Africa.

Latin American Petroleum Group Official Visits

FL2109002594 Havana Radio Reloj Network in Spanish 1937 GMT 20 Sep 94

[Text] Engineer Adrian Bustillo, general secretary of the Latin American Petroleum Industry Mutual Aid Association [ARPEL] continues his visit to Cuba, looking toward the 1995 conference of ARPEL in Havana.

This would be the first time a meeting of this kind takes place in Havana. Specialists of the petroleum union (CUPET) were invited. They outlined the preparations underway for that meeting.

Bustillo has so far met with Carlos Triana, Director of (CUPET), and with Jesus Perez Othon, first vice minister of Basic Industry [MINBAS]. The results were positive in both cases. He will end his visit to Cuba on 21 September.

Finance Ministry To Initiate Stricter Controls

PA1709033794 Havana PRENSA LATINA in Spanish 2133 GMT 16 Sep 94

[Text] Havana, 16 Sep (PL)—Cuba will establish a stricter control system in its financial operations to guarantee greater efficiency in its economic activities, according to a document issued by the Finance Ministry.

A manual entitled "General Guidelines for Analyzing the Behavior and Implementation of the Budget" has been issued. The guidelines make it possible to assess effectively the economic results of owner-financed enterprises or budgeted units, said expert Xiomara Tosar in a statement to the National News Agency, (AIN).

The new financial procedures include the analysis of economic indicators such as expenses, profits and losses, which must be evaluated in order to assess the effect of the measures on strengthening the economy, the Finance Ministry official said.

The implementation of measures such as increasing the price of staples, eliminating gratuities, and creating a new tax system are designed to reduce the deficit by 975.4 million pesos (the same equivalent in dollars according to the official exchange rate) in 1994.

The budget imbalance currently surpasses $4.2 billion and its escalation in the last few years has created a monetary surplus of more than $11 billion that, according to authorities, must be eliminated for the economy to improve.

Official Explains Labor Rationalization Resolutions

PA2009010794 Havana Radio Havana Cuba in Spanish 0000 GMT 17 Sep 94

[Report on an interview with Francisco Linares, minister-president of the State Committee for Labor and

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Social Security, by Susana del Calvo; from the "Evening Information Review" newscast; place and date not given]

[Text] Labor Ministry Resolution No. 06-94 went into effect on 1 September. This resolution is designed to rationalize personnel in the workplace and outline opportunities for relocating those who remain available or are surplus employees. Linares explained the difference between the new resolution and the previous Resolution No. 04:

[Begin Linares recording] Although this was implied in Resolution No. 04, it did not insist that when a worker becomes residual he is to be offered relocation only at a place where an opening needs to be filled. Resolution No. 06 is very clear about this. A worker who is residual must not be relocated in a place where he is not needed. This was one of the first issues we looked at.

The other matter is that this resolution establishes different treatment for workers based on their years in service. According to Resolution No. 04, a newly employed worker received the same treatment as one who had been working for 15 or 20 years. The new resolution establishes a difference between them, and workers are treated according to their seniority. This is another substantial change.

Resolution No. 04 established that surplus workers receive a certain labor treatment and salary for an indefinite period. The new resolution states that a worker's years in service is what is to be taken into consideration. A worker that winds up being residual as a result of a rationalization process or because of any of the various causes that leads to his status will be treated in accordance with his (?consecutive) years in service, but always within a limit.

Let us say, for example, a worker who has 20 or more years in service will remain in the enterprise for three more years if he is considered a residual employee as a result of a rationalization process. In addition, he will receive the same salary guarantee. After three years, he will be dismissed and sent to the municipality's labor directorate where he will receive 60 percent of his salary for one and one-half years.

In other words, under this system, if there is no opportunity to relocate a worker, he will still receive four and one-half years of salary. Of course, during this entire time—and this is contained in Resolution No. 04, as well as in Resolution No. 06—the enterprises, the administrations at the job sites where the employee worked, and the labor directorates must make an effort to relocate the worker in a useful and needed position in a job the person can perform. [end recording]

Linares also stressed:

[Begin Linares recording] The rationalization process is not simply aimed at reducing salary expenses; it also is aimed at achieving something we want to achieve in the labor sphere—namely, the right kind of labor discipline. It has been proven that whenever you have more people working than you need, you will have undisciplined individuals at your workplace. In other words, this is one way to help the country reverse its economic situation and reach a level of efficiency. An important factor is to have a labor force that is indispensable and necessary for the production you have to accomplish or the services you have to render. [end recording]

Transportation Minister On Status of Inspectors

FL1709182894 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 1155 GMT 17 Sep 94

[Report by Alcides Garcia; from the "Doing Radio" program]

[Text] Good morning to all the listeners of Doing Radio. Today I bring you an issue that can answer some questions or give peace of mind to those listening—the issue of the so-called yellows [amarillos] [transportation inspectors]. Everyone is talking about the foreboding possibility of their disappearance and the elimination of their valuable services to passengers all over Cuba. Happily, this is not exactly the case. The state inspectors play a vital role in alleviating the congestion of passengers at different strategic points throughout the length and breadth of Cuba. While some solution must be sought, they should not be eliminated. On the afternoon of 16 September, Transportation Minister Division General Senen Casas Regueiro made the following statements to the national press on the issue:

[Begin Casas Regueiro recording] The transportation inspectors were founded with a conception of the problem. They were created to organize and help the people in every aspect of transportation. On the surface it is valid to eliminate the inspectors; the service must improve. There is no reason to maintain a number of inspectors that, when alone in the street, have very little control. In more than a few cases, I repeat, in more than a few cases, they have performed poorly in carrying out their obligations. [end recording]

In Havana there are approximately 1,500 state inspectors and they did not always work as effecienctly as they should. On the other hand, many of them commit crimes that affect their better contributions.

On another matter referring to the transportation situation in Havana, the transportaion minister said that they are studying a program to put 1,145 units of all types in service in the second half of next year, which would satisfy 100 percent of the current demand in Havana. Many resources already exist for this program but the rest dependents on how the material and financial situation of the transportation department evolves. He also announced that every person involved in the execution of this program is being thoroughly prepared to guarantee maximum efficiency. For the present, the

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taxis will continue giving service to the hospitals and funeral homes, and the taxi-busses will service the terminals.

Panel Debates Sugarcane Situation

FL0809151694 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 1600 GMT 7 Sep 94

["Straight Talk" program with Fernando Davalos and host Luis Sexto, both of BOHEMIA magazine—live or recorded]

[Text] [Sexto] Davalos, the other day I heard you say you were very concerned about the issue of the sugarcane planting. What worries you about this issue?

[Davalos] Well, the last reports we received referring to the weed problem were so bad they made me want to cry. The report was published 24 or 48 hours ago. The weeds primarily affect new fields, sugarcane fields that have just been planted. I want to point out that I have also seen very poor quality in the planting. I have seen this because I have the privilege, as many others do, of watching the television NTV newscast where almost everyday they show images, live or only a few hours old, of sugarcane production complexes. These complexes have been distinguished because they have fulfilled planting goals, or because planting is supposedly going well. I see, right there before my eyes, that they are violating the elemental technical rules of planting.

[Sexto] What are those rules, Davalos?

[Davalos] In the first place, I have seen soil that is not properly prepared—clumps—and furrows that look like snakes—there are no straight lines. I see all of [words indistinct] eyes. I see disorder in all of that. I see it with my own eyes and so do the television cameras.

[Sexto] Can you base that on some kind of personal experience as well?

[Davalos] Well, only a few weeks ago I toured several provinces and noticed the same problem. I cannot say that I traveled extensively. However, I did tour three provinces, which is not bad. In any case, I see it everyday on television. Do you know what violating the proper preparation of soil is, accelerating soil preparation? That must not be done. There is a correct process that must be followed and if not, we are not going to obtain results. However, I want you to know that there is more.

[Sexto] Yes, there is more. Davalos, what I would like to ask you is whether you think your concern regarding this issue leads you to believe that this problem exists all over Cuba.

[Davalos] Well, bear in mind that it is affecting all of Cuba. I saw the same thing, personally, that I see everyday on television. A reason to worry even more was the weed report, published yesterday in GRANMA, confirming that planting is bad.

[Sexto] Yes, I noticed in Matanzas that there were a lot of weeds affecting the sugarcane fields, as well as other agricultural sectors. We have two problems here: One is the weed problem and the other is the sugarcane planting problem....

[Davalos, interrupting] I am glad you pointed this out because the weed problem, to which I am referring, is affecting the new sugarcane, which is being choked by the weeds. The new sugarcane has been planted incorrectly. It does not take root...

[Sexto] I would like to believe that the problem is not widespread because if it were, we would have to be doubly worried.

[Davalos] Forgive me, but in my opinion, this problem is widespread.

[Sexto] You think so?

[Davalos] Yes, I do, and I think it is the concern of the authorities at the Ministry of the Sugar Industry, who are working full speed on this. However, in addition to this concern in the Ministry, and the struggle to solve the problem, the situation is shameful, and people working on the sugarcane farms need to do the right thing: we cannot continue with shoddy work.

[Sexto] And what would the consequences of bad planting be?

[Davalos] We would not have cane from which to produce sugar for two subsequent harvests [words indistinct]. This country needs sugar and is not going to be able to produce it because we are not planting the cane correctly. I am worried, and what I am telling you is not intended to cause alarm; I would like it to be interpreted as a call to honesty.

[Sexto] That is what you are seeking: to make people realize the situation is shameful. I am sincerely worried that your concern could create the impression that this is a widespread and massive problem... [passage indistinct]

[Davalos] I believe that even we reporters should approach the issue in a different way. The exhortation and comment stages should be over. Now we need to summon those interested in this problem.

[Sexto] Sugarcane planting is a sensitive issue, first, because as you stated, there are things incorrectly done that need to be quickly corrected, and because of the importance to our economy of the next harvest. I would like you to comment on this issue. Clearly, there was industry diversification in Cuba, with the development of other lines of goods to increase exports. Yet, it is true that the sugar industry is still our national industry. Therefore, it is no small matter to insist on and remember the importance of sugarcane, the harvest, and sugar, especially under the current situation in Cuba.

[Davalos] The premise that the sugarcane harvest is the key sector of the Cuban economy is sufficiently acknowledged in Cuba. However, we need to go to the people and

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explain this to them because this is a key issue in their lives. It is clear that the sugarcane harvest is a crucial component of success. Cuba has outstanding natural resources for sugarcane planting. Sugar is produced with a minimal need for imports. There are fast-growing sectors such as tourism, with approximately $10 million in gross product. However, this industry requires more imports, close to 70 percent. Therefore, for every dollar collected in tourism, Cuba spends 60 or 70 cents. Yet, each dollar collected in sugar sales costs only approximately 30-35 cents, or perhaps closer to 40 cents now, due to the need for more imports with the new sugarcane technology that we developed and modified through the years, which requires high fuel consumption, and which is currently being reexamined. Nature, sun, rain, and Cuban soil are the key elements of the sugarcane industry, making it a cheap resource that we need to take advantage of.

[Sexto] Without a doubt, some shortages that affect Cuba have also affected the sugarcane industry, in both the agricultural and industrial sectors. Cuba is making efforts to reduce these shortages in one way or another. You are mostly referring to the subjective components of the sugarcane industry problems.

[Davalos] Yes. The current problems of the sugarcane industry, or at least the ones we can solve, are problems of a subjective nature, which involve organization. If we do not have funds to buy fertilizers or fuel, then we cannot expect them to come as manna from the sky, or wait for the fairy from Cinderella to help us solve the problems. These problems are being handled with great effort and efficiency by our central authorities. I am referring to other problems—the organization problems. I would like our dialogue to focus on the sugarcane issue, without getting into generalizations. We need to concentrate on the central goal of obtaining more currency. Therefore, I would like to return to the topic of planting.

[Sexto] Yes, we are back on track.

[Davalos] Everyday, I can see on television that the sugarcane is not being handled right: the cane is thrown into furrows....

[Sexto, interrupting] Those images on television should not be in the archives, they are recalling old times....

[Davalos, interrupting] No, no. There are some scenes from archives. I am an old reporter and can identify them.

[Sexto] Older than people assume.

[Davalos] No. Not so. Sometimes there are archival scenes used at random. However, I am referring to observations of prestigious places and this worries me. Imagine what goes on in other places.

[Sexto] I want to point out that your evaluation comes from what you are seeing on such mass media as television. Do you have personal experience?

[Davalos] Lately it has not been easy to conduct visits, even for reporters. There is no fuel. Yet, I had the opportunity to visit several places some weeks ago. I walked and saw sugarcane in Cienfuegos, in Villa Clara, in Sancti Spiritus, and Ciego de Avila. These are four real provinces, not just images on television. In addition, television needs to be respected, and when documentation on one of the places is shown, there are no lies, and the images show those places.

[Sexto] It would be necessary for the television reporter to say that those images in the documentation do not show reality though. [laughs]

[Davalos] I do not want to go into that. As reporters, we have part of the responsibility. We are not able to give information that has been verified.

[Sexto] Then you believe the practice still prevails of doing things just because strictness is lacking?

[Davalos] I tell you with sadness that we are being squeezed by this practice, or maybe, antipractice. Not only do we as reporters feel the pressure, but farmers are also being rushed, to report that a caballeria is ready when it is not sufficiently ready. And let me add that cane is being planted in the tracks of a truck that carries 600 arrobas. They are planting the cane in compacted soil, where that cane will not produce good results.

[Sexto] We should continue with this issue, but I refuse to believe that this is a widespread problem. If there were no places where things were accomplished correctly, then we should be very worried. Even if these mistakes are taking place in only 20 percent of Cuba, that is a relatively important estimate, which would highly affect our next harvest.

[Davalos] Yet, it must be said that there are places where planting is very well done, where good sugarcane is being produced. I have no doubt about that, and I congratulate those places.

[Sexto] His program therefore needs to be taken as a cry of alarm. Thank you, Davalos.

Inter-Caribbean Affairs

Council of Churches Concerned Over Haiti

FL2009220494 Castries HTS Caribvision Television in English 1945 GMT 20 Sep 94

[Text] The Caribbean Conference of Churches, CCC, is pleased that the Haitian military leaders have decided to step down. However, they voice a number of concerns about not only the actual agreement, but what it will mean for the lives of the people of Haiti.

[Begin recording] [General Secretary Edward Cumberbatch] We are gravely disturbed. Some of the concessions, it seems that there are too many concessions that have been made and that disturbs us.

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[Father Clement Paul] I am happy that the troops aren't going in to kill, but I wonder if this is another way of selling out the people of Haiti.

[Journalist Ricky Singh] There is no mention of President Aristide by name in the actual text, and I think if that is true, it is a manifestation of total contempt for the popularly elected president of the Republic of Haiti. It is also a manifestation of acquiescence to those who have been described by the President of the United States as thugs and dictators, and they are going to be the ones to receive the so-called invading forces. The only redeeming feature about it all is that in the end, we may have diminished the extent of conflict and hopefully, bloodshed. [end recording]

Bahamas

Prime Minister Cautions Over Haitian Conflict

FL2009142294 Nassau Bahamas Radio Network in English 1130 GMT 20 Sep 94

[Text] Prime Minister the Right Honorable Hubert Ingraham expressed satisfaction with the outcome of the negotiations between U.S. envoys and the Haitian military which averted an invasion of that strife-torn nation. Lorne Albree reports:

[Begin Albree recording] Said the prime minister: We can be proud to have been a part of an international exercise which sought and succeeded in using the threat of force to (?bring) the end to military dictatorship and the restoration of a legitimate, democratically elected government. The prime minister cautioned, however, that no one ought to believe that the situation in Haiti had been resolved and noted that the true test of the agreement struck yesterday with the Haitian military lies in the future. We cannot dismiss the fact of General Cedras's failure to live up to the terms of the Governors Island Agreement, signed only one year ago, said the prime minister.

However, the prime minister said that he found particularly encouraging General Raoul Cedras's pledge to work closely with the U.S. military command during this transitional period leading to the return to Haiti of President Jean-Bertrand Aristide. He said that he remains hopeful that the presence of U.S. forces in Haiti—to be joined in subsequent weeks and months by participants from other multilateral coalition force partners, including the Bahamas—would serve to encourage the Haitian military to honor this latest agreement. The prime minister said that, as evidenced from international news reports on the entry of U.S. forces into Haiti and from the reports of Lieutenant General Shelton, U.S. commander of the military operation in Haiti, events are going reasonably smoothly.

The prime minister also conveyed his special appreciation to President William Clinton, who has been largely responsible for bringing about the progress made in Haiti to date. In particular, the prime minister said [words indistinct] that Clinton saw the protection of human rights and the international movement of undocumented persons as matters important to the national security interests of the United States. [end recording]

Dominican Republic

Government Pleased With Peaceful Solution in Haiti

PA2009170894 Paris AFP in Spanish 1551 GMT 20 Sep 94

[Text] Santo Domingo, 20 Sep (AFP)—On Tuesday, the Dominican Republic issued an official communique expressing its satisfaction with the peaceful solution reached in the Haitian crisis. It offered its support for the restoration of calm in that nation.

The administration of President Joaquin Balaguer said that it is "pleased with the agreements reached between the feuding parties in Haiti. This will allow the neighboring country to move along the road to peace, progress, and democracy."

The communique says that "the Dominican Republic applauds the peaceful resolution of the crisis, particularly the reconciliation among the many sectors of the Haitian population, including Constitutional President Jean Bertrand Aristide."

In the text of the communique, the Dominican Government expresses its hope that industrialized nations, friendly countries, and multinational organizations will help rebuild Haiti, adding that it is "ready to contribute to the agreements in whatever way possible to effect long-lasting peace and harmony for benefit of the Haitian family." The Dominican Republic and Haiti share the Caribbean island of Hispaniola.

In 1991, during the government of Jean Bertrand Aristide, there was some serious friction between the two countries, especially after the Haitian leader told the United Nations that his countrymen were being treated like slaves on sugar plantations in the Dominican Republic.

Haiti

Pro-Aristide Demonstrators, Police Clash; 1 Dead

PA2009231494 Hamburg DPA in Spanish 2123 GMT 20 Sep 94

[Text] Port-au-Prince, 20 Sep (DPA)—One person was killed today, and several injured when Haitian police violently dispersed a demonstration by hundreds of supporters of deposed President Jean-Bertrand Aristide near the Port-au-Prince waterfront.

The person who was killed was a coconut vendor who was beaten on the head with a baton, according to several witnesses. As a result, angry demonstrators and

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police began throwing rocks at one another, according to the media. Military units were quickly dispatched to the area, and this provoked panic among people who began running in all directions.

Just as U.S. troops began unloading equipment at the wharf, angry demonstrators began shouting hostile slogans at the Haitian military officers, who used firearms, tear gas, and batons to disperse the crowd. Meanwhile, another pro-Aristide crowd was repressed today in the slum neighborhood of Cite Soleil, north of the capital, where police struck demonstrators with batons and iron rods.

"We demand the immediate return of President Aristide, the only guarantor of our democracy and the welfare of the masses," the demonstrators shouted as they accompanied a group of U.S. soldiers on their way to the Port-au-Prince airport. U.S. soldiers remained passive as police undertook repressive measures.

On Monday, police repressed two other demonstrations, one at the wharf and another near Port-au-Prince International Airport, where Aristide followers shouted slogans against the military and the de facto civilian authorities.

In a communique released today, the information minister stated that all street demonstrations need to have prior authorization from the corresponding Haitian institutions. Since the 30 September 1991 coup d'etat, organizations linked to the Army had been able to stage demonstrations freely. For example, on 17 and 18 September, as the negotiating commission headed by former U.S. President Jimmy Carter was visiting the country, supporters of the military regime staged demonstrations at the airport to protest against a possible foreign intervention and the return of Aristide.

In a statement delivered to the media, Port-au-Prince Mayor Evans Paul, one of Aristide's closest aides, urged the population to stage their demonstrations "in an orderly and disciplined manner to prevent provocations until foreign troops complete their deployment nationwide."

While condemning violent acts conducted against civilians today and yesterday, Paul urged military agents to stop carrying out these kinds of actions, which he said had been ordered by "erratic commanders."

Meanwhile, police dispersed another demonstration against the military coupists in Cap Haitien, the country's second largest city located on the northern coast, just after U.S. troops landed there.

Meanwhile in the central plateau region, military men at the Baptiste outpost in Balladere Municipality today detained several people close to Aristide. One detainee who identified himself as Abraham Dorescu was brutally beaten at the outpost.

As a result of the arrival of the first contingent of U.S. troops in Haiti, armed soldiers and civilians have intensified their repression in the country's central region. This is why dozens of young people from several towns have been forced to leave their houses and flee from the persecutions.

Report on Situation in Haiti After Arrival of Troops

FL2009195094 Port-au-Prince Radio Tropic FMR in French 1430 GMT 20 Sep 94

[Text] [Studio announcer] Firing in the air this morning and wielding sticks, the Haitian military battered several thousand pro-Aristide demonstrators in Cite-Soleil. Police quickly intervened without taking action against the thousands of demonstrators walking from [word indistinct] toward the international airport, carrying tree branches and chanting anti-Army, pro-Aristide slogans.

Economic activities have timidly resumed today, compared with yesterday. The larger stores opened their doors and street vendors were apparent. Here is a live report from Mobile 2:

[Unidentified reporter] Port-au-Prince is wide awake this morning, compared with yesterday. Activities have resumed. Public offices are open. The larger stores are also open in Port-au-Prince. We can say that activities have resumed in Port-au-Prince, in comparison with yesterday, when the residents appeared not to understand what was going on. They perhaps feel more confident today. Rumors are that there were demonstrations yesterday and even this morning. The situation has clearly progressed. This is Mobile 2.

[Studio announcer] Elected President Jean-Bertrand Aristide today expressed his willingness to stand behind the agreements he has signed, most notably the Governors Island agreement of 1993. In a brief press release made public today in Washington, Aristide does not even mention the Port-au-Prince agreement signed on 18 September by Jimmy Carter and unrecognized Haitian President Emile Jonassaint. This press release was the first reaction by Aristide since the signing of this agreement and the arrival in Haiti of U.S. troops.

We must build a state of law where neither violence nor revenge can govern our nation. That is why we must today remain faithful to the agreements we have signed, especially the Governors Island agreement, in compliance with our Constitution, and approved by resolutions of the United Nations and of the OAS. This agreement will take us back to democracy, asserts Jean-Bertrand Aristide.

According to a reliable source, six members of the multinational force [as heard] are this morning occupying the Delmas military district, commonly called Fort-Dimanche. Heavily armed military are posted in front of the building under the stunned looks of Haitian soldiers. According to the same source, the U.S. soldiers' mission includes the occuppation of several barracks in

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the capital and in provincial towns to avoid any upheaval on the part of the Haitian Armed Forces.

Jonassaint Government Prohibits Demonstrations

PA2109040194 Paris AFP in Spanish 0206 GMT 21 Sep 94

[Text] Port-au-Prince, 20 Sep (AFP)—Provisional Haitian President Emile Jonassaint today officially prohibited "all public demonstrations" as a means of averting "chaos and the spilling of blood desired by some people."

In a communique, Jacques Saint-Louis, the information minister of the provisional government, said, "The professional agitators of a well-defined segment of the population are taking advantage of the presence of a cooperative U.S. military mission to restart their subversive activities, the object of which is to lead the nation into chaos."

Security forces have received instructions to use "all necessary means to guarantee the security, lives, and property of residents and foreigners in the country," the communique continues.

The communique asks domestic and foreign reporters to "show objectivity and professionalism in disseminating information to prevent obstacles from hampering the cooperation process between the Haitian Armed Forces and the U.S. military mission."

"Formal instructions have been issued to the corresponding sectors to allow appropriate measures to be taken against anything that violates this climate," concludes the communique, which also asks the people to "remain calm."

Information Minister on 'Astonishing' U.S. Move

LD2009204994 Paris France-2 Television Network in French 1800 GMT 20 Sep 94

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] There has been an awkward silence from Jean- Bertrand Aristide for several days. The Haitian president driven out by the military three years ago is in Washington. He broke his silence briefly this afternoon, with a communique implicitly disapproving the Port-au-Prince agreement. Our correspondent Jean-Marc Illouz reports from Washington:

[Illouz] [passage omitted] Herve Denis, President Aristide's minister of information, gave France-2 the first official explanation of the overthrown president's silence:

[Begin Denis recording] President Aristide is examining the situation, because at the current time, as you know, the Americans on the ground have made an agreement with the putschists and puppet government which seems to me an astonishing one, and very risky, allowing them to remain in power for another month. [end recording] [passage omitted]

Aristide Spokesman Airs Fears of Cedras Moves

LD2009203694 Paris TF-1 Television Network in French 1800 GMT 20 Sep 94

[Excerpts] Bill Clinton has confirmed that U.S. troops will leave Haiti before 15 October. However, no date has been given for the return to Haiti of Jean-Bertrand Aristide, the ousted president who has refused to back the agreement reached by the U.S. Government. Our correspondent, Ulysse Gosset, reports from Washington:

[Gosset] [passage omitted] Father Aristide, whose name is not in the text of the agreement, has called for caution, just like his advisers in exile in Washington, who are wondering whether General Cedras has not laid a trap for the Americans:

[Begin recording] [Jean-Claude Martineau, President Aristide's spokesman] What we fear is that Mr. Cedras, who has already carried out a coup, will take advantage of the month of reprieve he has been granted to organize and prepare everything that is necessary for him to derail democracy. [end recording] [passage omitted]

Port-au-Prince Mayor: Carter Accord U.S. 'Maneuver'

PA2109023494 Madrid EFE in Spanish 2356 GMT 20 Sep 94

[Report by Herold Jean-Francois]

[Text] Port-au-Prince, 29 Sep (EFE)—Port-au-Prince Mayor Evans Paul said tonight the agreement reached on Sunday by a delegation led by former U.S. President Jimmy Carter and the Haitian military leaders "is a maneuver of the government" of the United States to permit the landing of troops in Haiti.

Paul believes the signing of the agreement does not change in any way the provisions of UN Resolution 940 that demands the departure of the de facto civilian and military leaders and the return of President Jean-Bertrand Aristide, who was ousted by a group of officers led by General Raoul Cedras on 30 September 1991.

The Port-au-Prince mayor and leader of the National Front for Change and Democracy, the coalition that brought Aristide to power in the December 1990 elections, demanded the return of the ousted president and urged the people to avoid "provocation and uncontrollable situations."

In remarks on the radio, Paul stressed that the intervention forces do not have complete control of the country. He also urged Haitian citizens to protect themselves, because he does not want to see more Haitians die.

Meanwhile, deputies of the rightist Alliance for Parliamentary Unity [Alianza Para la Cohesion Parlamentaria] applauded the agreement that permits Gen. Cedras to continue as Haitian Army commander. In a panel

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discussion on a radio station, the legislators said the agreement also enables the military leaders to avoid exile.

Regarding the convening of the National Assembly, the legislators of the alliance said they do not recognize Aristide's power to convene the Assembly to approve the amnesty law, because they have already taken their oath before a president. They were referring to Judge Emile Jonassaint, who was sworn in as president by the military leaders on 11 May.

The constitutional deputies have already voiced reservations about the possibility of convening the National Assembly.

Critics of the agreement fear that, if Congress cannot meet, Gen. Cedras will use this to his advantage and remain in power beyond 15 October, the date the agreement says he should leave.

Trinidad and Tobago

Foreign Minister Questions Wisdom of Haitian Accord

FL2009211794 Castries HTS Caribvision Television in English 1945 GMT 20 Sep 94

[Text] Trinidad and Tobago's Foreign Minister Ralph Maraj has questioned the wisdom of allowing the Haitian military leaders to remain in Haiti while democracy is being restored to that troubled nation. He says, however, he is happy that the United States was able to avert a military invasion which, he argues, would certainly have meant a loss of lives. Errol Pilgrim spoke with Minister Maraj:

[Begin recording] [Pilgrim] Mr. Maraj says he is hoping that the reason why there has not been any talk of the Haitian military leaders' departure from Haiti is that maybe an appropriate country has not yet been found to take them. He notes that two countries, Panama and Argentina, have offered asylum, but this has not yet been firmed up. He says it is a cause for concern that there is still no clear signal as to when the leaders of the military junta will actually leave Haiti and whether they will leave at all.

[Maraj] I am indeed very concerned about that because if you do not move to the point where you actually get them to leave Haiti, you are asking them to coexist with the government of President Aristide after so much water has flown under the bridge, and I am sure that is going to make for a very tense situation, a situation that is going to cause conflict.

[Pilgrim] Concerning Trinidad and Tobago's role as part of the Haiti military coalition, Mr. Maraj says he sees the troops which left here last Tuesday to join the coalition forces exercising an even more significant function now in Haiti than if there had been an invasion.

[Maraj] Our soldiers could be called upon to get into the situation much earlier than had been originally anticipated, and indeed, the situation that is going to be operative there at this point in time will be ready-made, really, for the kind of intervention that our soldiers were expected to make in this situation—that is, peacekeeping, policing, and ensuring that the stability which has been achieved is indeed maintained.

[Pilgrim] But the foreign minister says that despite the peaceful nature of the intervention, there is still a need for a great amount of caution to be exercised.

[Maraj] It is not to say that the situation is going to be without risk. In fact, it is going to be full of risk because one expects that there will be sniping, there could be a measure of guerrilla activity, there could be insurgencies here and there, there could be some kind of reaction to the presence of an alien force in the situation, so that it is not a tea party and it is not going to be that way; we never expected that it would be that. So that in answer to your questino, there is still a very important role for the Caricom forces to play in this situation. [end recording]

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Government Satisfied With Haiti Accord

PA2009132194 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 0512 GMT 20 Sep 94

[Text] Mexico City, 19 Sep (NOTIMEX)—The Mexican Government today expressed its satisfaction with the agreement reached between the U.S. Government and Haitian military authorities and said strict compliance with the accord will prevent a military offensive and bloodshed.

"Mexico welcomes the agreement reached yesterday between the U.S. Government and military authorities, which, if strictly fulfilled, will prevent an armed invasion of Haiti and the shedding of the people's blood in that country," the government stated.

In a communique, Mexico's Foreign Relations Secretariat recalled that from the outset of the Haitian conflict the government of that country had insisted on the "need to find a peaceful solution through dialogue and negotiation."

Meanwhile, former Foreign Relations Secretary Emilio Rabasa reiterated Mexico's policy is based on the principle of nonintervention, adding this country has always supported self-determination of the peoples.

In addition, PRI [Institutional Revolutionary Party] Deputy Maria Sherman commented that from the viewpoint of international law, the announcement of the presence of U.S. troops is Haiti is a clearly interventionist measure.

Deputy-elect Ifigenia Martinez considered it indispensable that each country seek democratization based on its sovereignty and "without intervention." Martinez also called for greater multilateral participation to counter the "crisis of hegemony" in the United Nations, adding the United States should not be the only "pole of power."

Saul Gonzalez, secretary of the Great Senate Commission, affirmed that although in Haiti's case the "lesser" of two evils was adopted, "we will never agree there should be one country dictating policy and morality for all nations." The official said that Mexicans have never agreed with the existence of a superior body before which no appeal could be filed and that always acts in accordance with its interests, he asserted, like the United States.

In this regard, Senator Salvador Sanchez said Mexico will call for greater democracy within the United Nations, a demand supported not only by other Latin American countries but also by the entire world. He explained that Mexico is calling for the incorporation of more nations into the UN Security Council and for "revision of the United Nation's moldy mechanics of internal operations, so as to further democratize UN foreign policy decisions."

Meanwhile, Ramon Godinez, secretary general of Mexican Bishops Conference (CEM), said that the danger of an invasion persists, so he asked Catholics to pray so the agreements reached in Haiti become a reality.

Arturo Montalvo, president of the National Forum of Catholic Evangelical Churches, said the dialogue was the best option for reaching an agreement in Haiti. He also explained that the reaction of Haitian military leader Raoul Cedras to the U.S. Government's call was appropriate and timely because it averted bloodshed in the Caribbean country. Montalvo concluded the use of weapons must not occur in any country and much less should international policies be imposed through violence.

Official Criticizes Anti-Immigrant Campaign in U.S.

PA2109003294 Mexico City LA JORNADA in Spanish 19 Sep 94 p 6

[Report by Jesus Aranda]

[Excerpts] Deputy Foreign Secretary Andres Rozental has reaffirmed that the Mexican Government rejects campaigns such as *Save Our State* [preceding words in English] (SOS) in the state of California or any other campaign that seeks to fight illegal immigration between Mexico and the United States and harms defenseless children and women. He also felt those actions would worsen the problem.

The official added that the Mexican Government "will not remain silent" in the face of these campaigns, which are used "to cater to short-term political interests" and seek to blame Mexican immigrants for all the ills afflicting U.S. society.

Speaking Saturday before the Annual Convention of the Hispanic Bar Association in Phoenix, Arizona, Rozental insisted that the Mexican Government respects the right of all countries to adopt the measures they deem necessary to implement their migration and border control policies. He stressed, however, that those topics must be handled "with seriousness and care."

He noted that the new bilateral measures to handle the phenomenon of migration will have to be based on "facts and realities, not on myths and stereotypes." [passage omitted]

With regard to the Mexican Government's rejection of the anti-immigration campaign, this is the second time in a month that Rozental outlines in U.S. soil the Mexican official stance.

The first one took place during the presentation of the Aztec Eagle Award in Los Angeles, California. On that occasion, in addition to voicing his concern over the "inevitable discriminatory repercussion" that the implementation of anti-immigration state and federal measures "will have on Mexicans, Mexican-Americans,

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whether legal or not," the official referred to the "anti-immigrant" climate that exists in California and other states.

The deputy foreign secretary warned that should an action be taken, "we want it to be known that all of Mexico feels affected." He also reaffirmed the Mexican Government's decision "to work closely with those opposed to SOS to contribute to its defeat." Before the members of the community of Mexican origin, Rozental warned that if SOS is approved, the consequences "will be much more ominous and immediate than what millions of dollars lost in federal subsidies could represent." The second occasion was when Ambassador Rozental made that statement before the Annual Convention of the Hispanic Bar Association, where he delivered the keynote address before almost 1,000 lawyers and state and federal officials of Latin American origin.

There, the official reaffirmed that the Mexican Government rejects the SOS initiative in California and stressed: "We cannot remain silent in the face of the political use of an anti-immigrants campaign that undermines the essential human rights of our citizens. We cannot accept that someone should profit from those who are out of their country in a defenseless position because someone was hired to do a job. We cannot stand idly by in the face of the growing hysteria that seeks to blame Mexicans for all the economic and social ills that afflict U.S. society."

EZLN Communique Declares State of 'Red Alert'

PA2009233594 Mexico City LA JORNADA in Spanish 17 Sep 94 p 19

[Communique of the Clandestine Indian Revolutionary Committee-General Command of the Zapatist National Liberation Army, issued in Mexico on 15 September 1994]

[Text] 15 September 1994

To the people of Mexico,
To the peoples and governments of the world,
To the national and international press.

Brethren:

The Clandestine Indian Revolutionary Committee-General Command [CCRI-CG] of the Zapatist National Liberation Army [EZLN] hereby states and charges the following:

1. Mr. Salinas de Gortari is deceiving national and international public opinion with his alleged willingness to have a dialogue. The central government is preparing a military solution, increasing the number of troops and military maneuvers in its theater of operations, intimidating the civilian population, while paramilitary squads suppress and murder the people's fighters.

2. The armed forces of the bad government have already assembled 10 divisions in the siege that seeks to stifle the dignified voice of the Zapatists in southeastern Mexico. With over 50,000 federal soldiers, the central government is trying to intimidate the EZLN rebellion in the face of fraud and the illegitimacy it is trying to establish with the endorsement of the media's monopoly in Mexico.

3. The federal troops that occupy the municipal capitals of Ocosingo, Altamirano, and Las Margaritas have begun patrolling outside their current positions and are going into Zapatist territory with the purpose of provoking our troops, intimidating the civilian population, and forcing a break in the cease-fire.

4. The federal aviation has resumed night flights and carried out maneuvers, flying close to the ground over the civilian population. During the day and evening of 12 September 1994, the usurpers threatened the people of Chiapas, while Federal Army combat planes carried out intimidating maneuvers over towns in Las Margaritas and Ocosingo Municipalities.

5. The high-ranking government circles have decided on a military solution to the conflict and are only awaiting the opportune moment to attack Zapatist positions.

6. The EZLN hereby addresses the high-ranking command of the Federal Army, the officers, troops, and ranks to request that—inasmuch as they have decided to carry out an armed clash in response to our demands for democracy, freedom, and justice—they do this with military honor and respect the civilian population. Our troops throughout the nation are ready to resist the attack, and they have received orders to defend our land to the very end, fighting with honor and dignity.

7. A break in the cease-fire by the federal troops and the subsequent unleashing of war is the result of an intrigue by the usurper Salinas de Gortari with the purpose of creating a situation favorable to his wishes to remain forever in power.

8. In reply to this belligerent attitude by the usurper of the federal executive power, the EZLN has declared a state of "red alert" for all of its troops throughout the national territory.

9. The EZLN reiterates its decision to uphold the demands of:
Freedom!
Justice!
Respectfully,
From the mountains of southeastern Mexico,

The Clandestine Indian Revolutionary Committee-General Command of the EZLN

Mexico, September 1994

Peace Commissioner, Bishops Demand EZLN Answer

PA2109035694 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 0734 GMT 20 Sep 94

[Text] Mexico City, 20 Sep (NOTIMEX)—Jorge Madrazo Cuellar, government peace commissioner for

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Chiapas, and a bishops' organization have asked the armed group that operates in Chiapas in the southeast part of the country to answer appeals for resuming the peace talks.

Madrazo Cuellar, commissioner for peace and reconciliation in Chiapas, asked the Zapatista National Liberation Army (EZLN) to respond to the appeals made a few months ago to return to the negotiating table to complete the pacification effort. The reason for the EZLN's silence must be made known, he said.

Madrazo Cuellar, who is also the ombudsman, has been on leave from this position since June, when he replaced Manuel Camacho Solis, who resigned and who had held the first peace talks.

Interviewed in Mexico City, Madrazo Cuellar said the government "reiterates its complete agreement to resume talks until true and just peace is attained." He added: "I expect the EZLN to explain why it does not want to resume talks."

The first peace talks were held under a virtual truce established 12 days after the EZLN initiated the conflict by occupying towns claimed by Indians and clashed with the Mexican Army. At that time, some 150 people were killed.

Madrazo Cuellar also asked the state's social organizations, which challenged the results of the gubernatorial elections held on 21 August, to file their protests urgently. He asked that "authorities to be sensible enough to find a solution and offer some type of an explanation for the alleged irregularities."

Eduardo Robledo, who won the election for governor of Chiapas, is convinced that no doubts should remain regarding the results of the local elections.

The bishops on the Commission for the Promotion of Peace and Reconciliation visited Chiapas and urged the EZLN to give "clear signs" that it wishes to resume the dialogue and end "social disorder" in the state.

Monterrey Bishop Adolfo Suarez Rivera, Coatzacoalcos Bishop Carlos Talavera, and Tuxtla Gutierrez Bishop Felipe Aguirre Franco, members of the Mexican Episcopal Conference, have begun a three-day tour. The prelates will travel to the zones of conflict to talk with authorities, as well as peasant, Indian, cattlemen, and political organizations, to learn about the current status of the pacification process and the post-electoral situation.

Bishop Aguirre believes the EZLN has become "fanatical" and urges its people "to die for a cause that substituted political demands for its original goal of social well-being."

The prelates traveled to San Cristobal de las Casas today to talk with Madrazo Cuellar and members of the self-styled Civilian Society of Los Altos. The bishops will return to Tuxtla on Wednesday and at 1300 will hold a news conference at the Good Samaritan House Primary School to review the results of their tour.

Parties Agree To Set Agenda for Dialogue

PA2009174194 Mexico City LA JORNADA in Spanish 15 Sep 94 pp 1, 23

[Article by Oscar Camacho Guzman]

[Text] Yesterday the nation's three most important political forces, the PRI [Institutional Revolutionary Party], PAN [National Action Party], and PRD [Party of the Democratic Revolution], agreed to sit down and define, "through serious discussions and negotiation of open policies," the agenda for a national dialogue that would end in democratic changes in the state. Here would be set out the definite separation of the government's official party, the eventual creation of a fourth constitutional power, independence and autonomy in electoral matters, and completely impartial and fair elections.

After Senator Porfirio Munoz Ledo, the PRD's national leader, submitted his party's invitation to a national dialogue for democratic reforms to the Congress' Permanent Commission, PRI legislators Victor Manuel Tinoco and PAN legislator Juan de Dios Castro stated the willingness of their respective parties to advance existing electoral changes through new political reform.

On behalf of the PRI, Tinoco agreed to the proposed dialogue. He said that the "time has come for mistrust to give way to serious discussions and open policies that will lead us to new stages in the new phase of political reforms." These should allow the national consolidation of "fully democratic, impartial, and fair elections."

Meanwhile, through its legislator Juan de Dios Castro, the PAN reiterated and approved its "constant and permanent willingness for dialogue." At the same time, the party asked its political enemies to place national interests ahead of party and group interests. It also called for the appointment of representatives with "enough authority to make decisions and commitments on behalf of the political groups participating in this dialogue."

During yesterday's session of the Permanent Commission, the PRI, PAN, and PRD agreed that national interests should be placed ahead of party and group interests, so that the decisions that are made transcend majorities or minorities, either from the right wing or the left wing, and personal interests.

But during the "training exercise" for national dialogue that formed part of yesterday's debate, two slight differences were detected. While the PRI and the PAN talk about new and deeper political reform, the PRD thinks that progress must be made toward overall reform of the state before electoral reforms can be considered.

Yesterday's subdued and moderate debate in the Congress' Permanent Commission also served as a forum for the PRD to point out that respect and truth among

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national political forces were conditions for dialogue. The PRI, for its part, asked that insults, prejudices, and tongue lashings be set aside.

For the first time in many years, we observed at yesterday's session a dialogue—rather than a debate—filled with carefully selected words, very few explanations, very mild reprimands, and an unusually polite tone.

It was so polite that when PAN deputy Juan de Dios Castro recalled a time when an attempt at national dialogue failed because of internal changes in the PRD leadership, Porfirio Munoz Ledo explained that he had not meant to cause conflict: "Rather, we would like to participate in the encounter for a new agreement that we know is possible because we are living in a new reality. We hope that this time the seriousness and depth of the nation's political crisis will drive us to achieve substantial, permanent, and binding agreements."

PAN and PRD Criticize Carpizo

If any direct, strong, or recriminating words were uttered during the debate on this point, they were not directed at any legislator. Instead, they were directed at a member of the executive branch, Government Secretary Jorge Carpizo McGregor, various aspects of whose speech on Monday have been questioned by the PRD and the PAN.

Through Munoz Ledo, the PRD wing criticized Carpizo's whole speech, while the PAN expressed its indignation not at the speech's contents but rather at its tone, form, and timing.

PAN Deputy Juan de Dios Castro said: "We think the timing of the government secretary's speech eroded existing conditions and made the road to achieving this dialogue a little more difficult to traverse."

Meanwhile, the PRI wing agreed with only part of the government secretary's speech, wherein he emphasized in general the honesty of the federal elections held on 21 August, although it disagreed as to the origin of any questions about the electoral process.

PRI Senator Victor Manuel Tinoco Rubi said: "It is up to the Federal Electoral Tribunal to solve these challenges and claims, that I want to believe arise from legitimate dissatisfaction, not from party strategies to resist results that do not favor these same parties."

Munoz Ledo Asks for Political Intelligence, Rationality, and Patriotic Will

After the National Council of his party had agreed to move forward with a political dialogue with all forces in the nation, PRD President Porfirio Munoz Ledo proffered the following invitation to the Standing Committee of the National Congress.

He said that there are structures, traditions, and abuses prevailing in Mexico that prevent the true fulfillment of the voting principle. Now the election is over, all sides are beginning to propose "agendas that address the need to move on" toward democratic reform of the state that would end practices that prevent the people from freely exercising their right to vote.

Among other issues on the agenda, Munoz Ledo listed the need for separation of the government and the PRI, equality in the electoral process, effective means for preventing government abuses and illegal use of government resources, ending the abusive propaganda campaign that only favors the ruling party, total impartiality of electoral organizations, and ending corporate and collective affiliations.

Munoz Ledo said this was not just another electoral reform. The objective should be to achieve the democratic reform of the government, beginning on new constitutional grounds. "The simple statement of the separation of the state and the ruling party elicits not only the need for electoral reform but for reform of the state itself," the PRD leader said.

He added that "the agenda resurfaces the initiative to establish a genuine fourth power that would be included in the nation's General Constitution. This would be accomplished by adding to the definition that states that the supreme power of the federation is divided into the executive, legislative, and judicial branches a passage stating that there will also be an autonomous electoral branch, independent of all other state authorities."

Munoz Ledo summarized by saying that "this would be a nationwide joint effort to substantially reduce the extremes of presidentialism, contribute to the decentralization process, and put a stop to the paternalism and authoritarianism that have so harmed the nation."

He also said that the agenda must include issues like a new development policy to ensure the proper use and distribution of revenues and an effective effort against poverty, among many other economic, social, ecological, commercial, and political issues. Finally, he pointed out that this all will require an atmosphere of honesty and mutual respect. Therefore it is misleading to say that the recent election was perfect, while recognizing the need for deep political reforms.

PRI: Political Reforms Still Pertinent

The PRI's Victor Manuel Tinoco Rubi opened his remarks by saying that while "it is important to point out that significant progress has been made in preparing elections and in citizens' attitudes toward the polls, it cannot be affirmed that the Mexican people have an infallible and impeccable electoral system."

Tinoco said: As the PRI sees it, "political reforms can still form part of our history. Thoughtful dialogues and discussions among Mexico's political forces and civil society can still lead to justifiable changes," considering that "steps have yet to be taken to fully consolidate democratic, impartial, and equitable election processes in our country."

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Tinoco said that on 21 August, Mexican citizens maturely demonstrated that they want changes within the framework of institutions, the law, peace, political plurality, and civility in marching toward a better kind of democratic coexistence.

In this sense, "perhaps the time has come to turn distrust into a table for serious discussions and open political negotiations that may lead us to a new phase of political reforms, objectively and calmly taking advantage of the experiences of these recent elections."

While Munoz Ledo pointed to the need for a climate of respect and truth, Tinoco asserted that in order that dialogue make occur, it is necessary that advisers, legislators, and party representatives "eradicate prejudice, scorn, and insults from the dialogue. The Mexican people demand reasonable and clear positions capable of serving national interests, looking beyond the interests of majorities or minorities, of the left or the right, and of personal interests."

The PAN's Juan de Dios Castro said that the need for dialogue in Mexico is not new and recalled that his party has been demanding one for years, but that present conditions had not come about until now.

"These circumstances did not exist in recent years, and are now prevalent perhaps due to the passion generated by the election." This is why he reaffirmed and asserted that his party's constant and long-standing willingness for dialogue.

He recalled that the PAN called a national dialogue in 1988. The party saw the need for the various political forces to exchange proposals and opinions on matters of national interest and to discuss issues like the national economy, education policy, and political democracy, among others.

The PAN then proposed, said Juan de Dios Castro, that the dialogue be reasonable and expressed its opposition to the "all or nothing" policy. They believe that subversion and irresponsible calls for rebellion are not the way to solve the country's problems.

After briefly highlighting other unsuccessful attempts to initiate a dialogue, which failed because of changes within the PRD, Juan de Dios Castro pointed out the need to move toward political reform focused on limiting the relationship between the PRI and the government, illegal forms of support, and the excessive presidentialism, which are the cancer of federalism.

After recognizing that much has been achieved in electoral reform, the PAN legislator emphasized the need for more political reforms, as "there is still much to be done."

IFE President Addresses Election Officials

PA2009022794 Mexico City LA JORNADA (PERFIL Supplement) in Spanish 13 Sep 94 pp 1-4

[Speech by Jorge Carpizo McGregor, government secretary and president of the Federal Electoral Institute, at ceremony honoring officials who worked on the 21 August presidential elections, in Mexico City on 12 September]

[Text] Ladies and gentlemen, citizens, advisers, Mr. Director General, and IFE [Federal Electoral Institute] officials.

Ladies and gentlemen, members of the Electoral Registry Technical Council.

Ladies and gentlemen, polling station officials. I am pleased to symbolically accord this diploma and award to the 385,573 citizens who worked as polling stations officials during the 21 August federal elections.

You performed your duties correctly and prepared yourselves with enthusiasm and patriotism to undertake this responsibility. In general, performance on the day of the elections was good, and in many cases, performance was excellent, regardless of the fact that there may have been some human errors, which are completely understandable. In presenting this acknowledgment, Mexico honors your magnificent sense of duty.

Likewise, a special diploma is presented to the 10 outstanding Mexican scientists and scholars who form the Electoral Registry Technical Council. Their diverse specialties have been tremendously valuable for the success of the electoral process. Their expertise, professionalism, responsibility, and integrity were the best guarantee the election process had. They spared no efforts, in addition to being quite generous with their time.

I want to highlight that they knew very well that their acceptance of the task entailed political risks because of the nature of the task and the circumstances that prevailed. This never daunted them. On the contrary, with great scientific and technical discipline, they fulfilled the tasks bestowed upon them by the IFE General Council. Their members represent the academy, responsible and prominent, committed to the country's best causes, serving Mexico—their nation—which they have helped advance, with impartiality and scientific discipline. In you is reflected the phrase by Vicente Guerrero: The fatherland comes first.

I want to take this opportunity to reflect together on the different aspects of the federal elections. There has been great recognition of the elections both within and outside the country. Nevertheless, some people and organizations have charged that an alleged electoral fraud was perpetrated. Obviously, this accusation does not surprise anyone; they said several months ago that such fraud was being prepared.

All their present accusations were made many times. I admit tney had a reason: the guarantees for clean and open elections had quadrupled. Most proposals made by parties were satisfied. The only ones that were not

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accepted were those for which consensus among the parties was not reached or those which there was not enough time to implement.

At this moment, mere words are worthless. Any accusation must be substantiated with evidence, further evidence, and only evidence.

I invite you to look with me at the alleged fraud some people are talking about with so much rancor and rage. In the preceding months, they spoke so much about fraud that it now seems impossible for them to face reality without subterfuges.

According to them, they cannot be wrong. They cannot accept the fact the electoral process proceeded smoothly, with its reasonable faults and irregularities—which indeed existed—given its magnitude and complexity.

Let us take a close look at where we might find this alleged fraud, which is so frequently alluded to. Some say it can be found in:

I. Election figures. Let us examine that issue.

1. Among the many reasons for the distrust that exists among the parties and toward the government was a very delicate issue; the timeliness and veracity of the vote count for each party on 21 August.

A system new to the country, created by various social organizations, was used to arrive at the results: the figures were disclosed, first of all, by prestigious associations, and hours later, the IFE released its figures as a means of building up credibility. This system would never have been accepted if anyone had attempted to conceal information. Many organizations decided on their own or due to respectful appeals to conduct rapid tallies.

Rapid tallies are based on the results at the polling tables, on real results, on the cards with the election results that are set up outside each polling table. They are called rapid because they are based on samples that are representative of the polling tables. If the sampling is designed well and conducted well, there is a surprising coincidence between the rapid tallies and the final election results. In the United States of America and in many West European nations, communities are informed of the election results through rapid tallies conducted by the news media. This is what happened in Mexico.

The novelty in our country is that there were many serious rapid tallies. Those deciding to conduct them were: the National Chamber of the Radio and Television Industry, the National Council of Electoral Observation Associations, the National Teachers Organization for Electoral Observation, the Civic Alliance, Azteca Television, the Coparmex, the National Democratic Crusade for Effective Suffrage, Citizens Presence, DIARIO REFORMA, the Mexican Green Ecologist Party, the Institutional Revolutionary Party, and the Cardenist Front for National Reconstruction Party. Their results were very similar. The IFE published a listing of those results, which greatly coincided with its own.

Could it be that such a diversity of organizations joined to deceive the Mexican people? Of course not.

These organizations, which are among the country's most prestigious social groups, decided to conduct rapid tallies despite the high cost of doing so because of their committment to the nation. Their figures are real; they coincide with the votes deposited in the ballot boxes. It would be impossible for 12 rapid tallies to coincide if they were fraudulent. However, there is more: All of these organizations and their hundreds of thousands of members are certain that those figures coincide with the vote count, the real figures, the Mexican people's decision.

2. The IFE also conducted a rapid tally, designed by members of the Electoral Census Technical Council, and of course, its results coincided with those of the social organizations.

Nevertheless, the key issue was the Preliminary Electoral Results Program (PREP) which, by law, the general director of the IFE must conduct.

We must also remember that the PREP was another new tool in our country; it allowed the gradual collection of results, polling table by polling table, as each table concluded its vote count and delivered its vote count certificates to PREP officials who immediately sent them to a collection center for delivery to the Federal District, so that the coummunity would be apprised of the trend in the vote in a timely manner.

Although the PREP falls under the general director's responsibility and power, it was made available to all the political parties and members of the General Council in private and at a joint meeting, and many of their observations were included in the PREP. On election day, an audit was conducted on all the computers in the presence of representatives from all the political parties to confirm that they were blank. The representatives were allowed to watch the entire process.

The PREP collected 95.83 percent of the vote count certificates from the 96,394 polling tables. The PREP functioned well, generally speaking, although it did have certain weaknesses: It failed to collect information from 4.17 percent of the polling stations because, in certain cases, the PREP vote count certificates were put into electoral packages or because they lacked proper identification. Nevertheless, that 4.17 percent, which is now available, does not change the general trend of the vote. Copies of the vote count certificates are at the IFE, and through arrangements made by the General Council, a comparison of samples is being conducted to confirm that the votes cast at the polling stations are the ones that were divulged in the PREP.

Besides, as of four days ago, the PREP has been conducting an audit to certify in a detailed fashion that it

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was adequately implemented. The PREP could have operated at a greater speed, nevertheless, 25 filters were set up to record in the memory and in a back-up all the operations in order to conduct this audit.

The PREP allowed, for the first time in our electoral history, for definitive electoral results to be known the day after the elections.

3. In each district council, the votes were counted again based on the polling station lists. These councils are comprised of seven persons with a right to vote; six of them are councilmen. If a question came up, at the request of a political party, the vote packages were opened, and the votes were counted again one by one, before the representatives of the political parties.

The tallies of the district councils are those that are legally valid, unless they are being challenged at the Federal Electoral Tribunal, which will rule on this according to law.

There is something that is indisputable:

Why did the results of the rapid tally, the PREP, and the official numbers obtained from the count at the district councils all coincide? Because they all came from the same voting lists that citizens like you drew up in the vote count at the polling stations and in the councils.

4. Therefore, looking at the facts, can someone believe that the results of the votes were altered? Based on real and objective information, I leave it up to each one of you to answer this question for yourself.

II. But then, where else can this alleged fraud be found?

1. In the transfer of the ballot boxes from the polling stations to the district councils? No, as these were transferred tightly sealed by the civilian officials of the polling stations, accompanied by representatives of the political parties, as decided by them.

Besides, the National Chamber of Radio and Television Industry conducted an exit poll [previous two words in English], which is a sample of the result of the voting, obtained by asking the citizens exiting the voting booth for whom they voted. This poll coincides with the results of the rapid tally, with those of the PREP, and the vote count conducted by the district councils. The importance of this poll, in this regard, is that it was conducted before the transfer of the electoral vote packages to the district councils, before the voting boxes are removed from the polling stations.

2. Was the alleged fraud committed by the polling station officials? No, because let us recall that they are citizens like you who were chosen from two drawings based on the month they were born in and on the first letter of their surnames. This is how, on 20 August, 98.1 percent of the polling station officials' posts were occupied, while the remaining 1.9 percent were occupied based on a substitution criteria approved by the General Council. Those who acted as polling station officials know how the whole process was carried out.

I am certain that you have heard the enthusiastic stories of relatives, friends, or neighbors who fulfilled this important task. Those who have attempted to put down these Mexican citizens are making a serious mistake by seeing in them 385,576 electoral criminals, who are, to say the least, an expression of increasing participation and commitment.

3. The electoral stations were monitored as never before in our history. In more than 90 percent of these, at least two or more representatives of political parties were officially present. The report on the party representatives that were actually present at the stations is being concluded. There were 81,620 local observers and 934 foreign visitors. The diverse observers' organizations have been presenting their conclusions; those that acted impartially, ethically, and professionally did a great service to the nation.

By virtue of the fact that the rural regions are more difficult to monitor, the citizen advisers, as well as this speaker, encouraged the establishment of a trusteeship that would be managed by the citizens. This trusteeship would provide economic support to the party representatives and all observers who decided to witness those rural voting stations located in remote regions. Do you really believe that if we had something to hide we would have adopted such a decision? In addition, our objective was to break through the outdated apathy prevalent in the rural regions.

4. In order to prevent the likelihood of double voting, we took great pains to ensure the use of genuine indelible ink. All of us who voted are convinced that the ink was indeed indelible. There is no need for more words. Moreover, in order to ensure that the indelible ink used on election day would be the same one that had been previously approved, we are currently examining each polling stations' ink containers.

5. The percentage of votes annulled at each voting station was 2.9 percent of the total number of votes. This is considerably lower than during the last election. The reason for this is that the officials at the voting stations, citizens just like you, were meticulous in carrying out their duties as was requested in the brochures distributed to all of you. The issue of the annulled votes caused some skepticism, and in response to a request by the political parties, we decided to open some packages with the annulled votes at the district councils. In this respect, we were able to ascertain that the annulled votes were indeed those that had been invalidated.

6. The only serious problem that arose on election day was the one related to insufficient ballots at the special voting stations.

A total of 687 special voting stations were set up throughout the country, which represents 0.71 percent of the total number of voting stations.

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On 28 February, the political parties decided that only 300 ballots would be distributed to each special polling station. This suggestion came from one of the political parties. The mood of suspicion prevailed despite the fact that the IFE director general initially suggested distributing 750 ballots for each special station. The number was reduced to 500 because of the disagreement the suggestion promted. At any rate, the political parties decided that the number of ballots would not exceed 300. Afterward, the same political party that recommended the 300 ballots is the one that now complains that voters seeking to vote at the special voting stations were being turned away.

The problem that took place at the special voting stations can be explained by examining some data. In 1991, there were 930 special stations, each supplied with 750 ballots, and the voting list included 36.5 million voters. In 1994, however, there were only 684 special stations, with 300 ballots each, and the voting list included 45.7 million registered voters.

Of the 45.7 million citizens with credentials to vote who were able to take advantage of IFETEL [expansion unknown], the institute's telephone information service, nearly 2,114 calls were received from citizens complaining about their names not appearing on their station's voting list, despite having a registered voter card. We received no complaints other than the 2,114.

After we investigated the protests, we were able to determine that 282 of those who complained did appear in their respective voting lists; 1,340 voters had either changed address, requested a new card, or updated information without having picked up their new card. With respect to the other 223 cases, the voter was excluded by the Citizens Status Modification Program. The information provided in 46 cases was insufficient to carry out an investigation.

On the other hand, the citizens advisers have publicly and repeatedly invited those voters who wanted to vote in their polling stations but were unable to do so because they were not included in the voting lists, to forward a copy of their voter credentials. To date, the advisers have only received 397 credentials, which have already been evaluated. In this respect, 59 are included in the voting lists, and 263 are not included in any list because of causes attributed to the voters themselves, such as change of address, insufficent information, or new credentials. In addition, they may have failed to pick up their new new credentials. This is where the alleged 3, 4, 8, or 10 million voters who were turned down can be found.

7. It has been said, among all the things that have already been said, that there were some polling stations where votes exceeded voters. We investigated this assertion by examining the 6,000 voting stations corresponding to the 300 districts, and in no case did we find that the number of votes exceeded the number of listed voters.

It has been scandalously reported that in some cases, the number of ballots found in a ballot box (to elect president, senator, deputy, or representative to the Federal District Assembly) was three or four times higher than the number of voters.

In those cases, it was obvious that errors were made when filling out the tally sheets and adding the corresponding results in the three or four types of election crediting the votes to only one type of elections or repeating the same mistake when adding the votes for each type of election. Examples of this were seen in polling station 207 of the fourth electoral district in Yucatan and polling station 1244 in the fourth electoral district in Hidalgo. However, those mistakes committed by the officials at the polling stations did not alter the corresponding results for each party and each type of election.

Then, where is the alleged fraud?

III. "In the electoral register, of course." Just as it had been announced in the preceding months that the electoral register had been altered, this same argument was repeatedly used. An alleged fraud was announced over and over again.

We will examine the main aspects of the electoral register, which is the basis for the voting lists and the voting credentials with photographs. There are three aspects on the same subject.

1. The 1994 electoral register is new. Its preparation began in 1991 with a census, and it was improved and updated through various programs. Its most outstanding challenge, however, is its reliability.

2. Why do we say that the electoral register is reliable?

a) Between 1991 and 1993, 36 audits and verifications were conducted to improve it and measure its reliability. It was concluded that the register is 96 percent consistent.

b) Eight political parties decided to conduct—which in fact they did—a national sample verification. Only one party refrained from participating in this exercise, despite the constant invitations from the other parties to join this important exercise.

The conclusion reached from that verification was that the level of inconsistency of the electoral register was between a minimum of 2.37 percent and a maximum of 3.91 percent.

c) When assuming the presidency of the General Council of the Federal Electoral Institute, I firmly supported the proposal to conduct an external audit of the electoral registry. Only one party opposed the measure, but still participated with suggestions to be included in the basis for the public bidding of that external audit. In order to supervise the technical aspects of the audit, the Technical Council of the Electoral Register was created. Ten distinguished Mexican scientists reviewed the basis for

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the public bidding, which was approved by the IFE General Council. They decided that the audit would be conducted by eight firms that in turn would be supervised by the Technical Council.

The conclusion reached after that external audit was that the electoral register has a consistency of 97.42 percent.

d) The National Action Party [PAN] also conducted a serious and scientific analysis of the electoral register, which included a sample verification and a computer audit. The conclusions of that study were that "the current electoral register has a level of inconsistency between 2.59 and 4.13 percent, which in our opinion constitutes an acceptable level of error..."

e) When on 3 June the members of the General Council began their functions, six distinguished Mexicans decided to have advisers who examined the technical aspects of the electoral register. The six council members began to carefully study the various aspects of the electoral register. This effort led them to make various recommendations and to issue a conscientious opinion in a significant document in which they declared that the electoral register was "valid and final."

f) The nominal lists emerging from the census itself were publicly exhibited on two occasions, thereby allowing each citizen to conduct his own audit. On the first occasion, they were exhibited in over 2,600 photocredential units from 1 to 30 April; on the second, they were exhibited at the municipal offices of all the town councils from 10 to 20 August.

g) These nominal lists were delivered to all the political parties so they could have an opportunity to examine and reexamine them on magnetic tapes on 30 June, and in print on 21 July.

h) The group of experts from the United Nations, in their technical study on the electoral census stated:

"We can assert that the progress made on this subject is the most significant that has ever been achieved in the international sphere."

i) A political party presented the case of the homonyms (namesakes) in the Federal District as proof of alleged fraud and credential duplication. The Electoral Census Technical Council and the National Surveillance Commission [Comision Nacional de Vigilancia—CNV]—the latter formed by the nine political parties—studied the matter and the CNV, with a nay vote from one of the parties, decided that: "there are no elements to make a well-founded assertion that the repetition of names constitutes an irregularity in the nominal lists, or false registrations, let alone that their existence is indicative of the fraudulent alteration of the electoral lists."

In other words, a social issue that is quite common in many parts of the world was going to be used in Mexico as a catapult to denounce an alleged fraud.

Through a request by a well-accredited private firm, a comparison was made between the Electoral Census' computerized data base and the nominal lists and both coincided 100 percent. Later on, at local councils, a drawing of lists was carried out among the political parties so that when the nominal lists arrived at the district councils for distribution to the voting tables' board presidents, they would be compared with the lists distributed through the drawing to the political parties; the result of the comparison was that all the lists coincided 100 percent.

Furthermore, by instructions from the General Council, the Electoral Census Technical Council designed a sample that would be used on election day for a comparison between the nominal lists distributed to the parties and those used by the voting table presidents. These nominal lists also coincided 100 percent.

k) Depite all of the above, certain people maintain that 3, 4, 8 or 10 million people were "shaved" from the electoral census or are "ghosts." These people have never proven their assertions; they only repeat their pretentious ideas every time the opportunity arises.

It is fortunate that they invented such a large number of people because it has rendered their lucubrations quite absurd. Imagine 8 million Mexicans "shaved" from the census; people who, in other words, do not exist; people who underwent the necessary procedures and were not included in the electoral census. That is impossible.

It would be a scandal of enormous proportions. Think of the problems caused by the shortage of votes at the special voting tables. It would be silly to think it possible to overlook or annul 3, 5, 8 or 10 million Mexicans without anyone noticing.

On the other hand, imagine the presence on the census of 3, 5, 8 or 10 million "ghosts;" imagine the millions of Mexicans that would be required to perpetrate that alleged fraud. The Mexican people, who displayed their great civic spirit on 21 August, are being told that among them are millions of electoral criminals. Really absurd, incredibly absurd. Imagine the mentality of those who have dared to invent the Disneyland of 1994's alleged electoral fraud.

These fantasies are contradicted by 36 internal audits, a national verification sample, one external audit, the audit carried out by the National Action Party, the two audits carried out by the citizens themselves, the decision reached by the group of UN experts, and an invitation extended by the citizen advisers to people who wanted to vote but were not on the nominal lists.

Why did schemers not think of a more credible figure, like, for example, 100,000 or 200,000 citizens? Because their story would fall apart when they were unable to get the result they wanted due to the fact that such figures would have absolutely no effect on the elections' final results.

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Conclusion: Mexico was able to create one of the best, if not the best, electoral lists of people who registered voluntarily, in the world. According to audits and national figures, the credibility level was between 96 and 97 percent. This has truly upset those ominous persons who predict disasters in Mexico.

IV. In Mexico's 21 August elections, Mexicans made very positive advances because we had the will to make big efforts jointly:

1. Approximately 77.73 percent of the citizens who registered voted. This is a percentage few countries attain and there is greater merit to it if it is recalled that two weeks prior to the elections, there were alarming rumors to scare people so that they would not vote. However, we did vote. We were not intimidated. We voted in peace and tranquility. Incidents were minor.

Many were in the lines with their children. What better civic lesson for those children than accompanying their parents to vote?

Most Mexicans opted for the civilized way to solve political problems. This shows a great political asset [captial].

2. We installed 99.97 percent of the 96,415 polling stations. In other words, only 21 polling stations were not installed.

3. A total of 2,514,828 citizens were trained to work at the polling stations. Those who worked there did a very good job. The political parties tried to add them to their campaign of distrust. They were loaded with work and instructions, as never before. For example, they had to give special attention to citizens who exercised their right to vote based on a resolution issued by the Federal Electoral Tribunal; they had to verify the identity of general representatives from the political parties to give them a copy of the polling station's document [acta de casilla] even if no representative had been accredited to that station; they had to take care of observers and foreign visitors; they had to dip the voters' right thumb in ink to show that they had voted, a procedure that was changed from that which was originally proposed; and they had to register as incidents, the cases of citizens who were unable to vote because they failed to appear on the lists.

In general, these officials fulfilled their duties very well. Did they make any mistakes? Of course, they did, but most of them were the result of their level of preparation, the complexity of their tasks, or the new nature of the system. These mistakes were never willful or the result of ill faith. It must be taken into consideration that they were pressured by voters, the representatives from political parties, the local observers, and the foreign visitors. They were asked to perform as if they had post-graduate degrees. In addition, the IFE General Council changed operating procedures for polling stations at the last minute. New bulletins and instructions were issued to polling station officials. It seemed that the General Council was telling them: you can do more, more, and more. Political parties were given more privileges than the citizens. This was another result of the campaign of distrust. I reiterate, polling station officials did a great job, despite normal mistakes made in some cases. The Mexican people showed great maturity and wisdom on 21 August. I am filled with admiration. I am proud of the Mexicans.

V. The 1994 federal elections were carefully planned. In January, we began to make many changes to give citizens and political parties the guarantee of truly clean and honest elections. Allow me to list several of the most important reforms made during this period, reforms I have not mentioned on this opportunity, reforms that were the result of a consensus among the country's largest political forces.

1. The IFE's collegiate bodies became "citizen-oriented." Of the 11 votes at the General Council, six belong to very prominent Mexicans, whom I respect. Of the seven voting members at the local and district councils, six are citizen advisers. Some 34 local nonvoting members, 212 district nonvoting members, and 122 citizen advisers were replaced during this period.

It has been said that the citizen advisers came into the electoral process late. That is right. We were implementing last minute constitutional, legal, and administrative reforms on election day, which showed our ironclad political resolve to do it. However, the work done by the citizen advisers has been very valuable, and we have the results to prove it.

It has also been said that all the officials and citizen advisers who needed to be replaced were not replaced. Honestly, I do not know, because we allowed enough leeway to let all, absolutely all, officials and citizen advisers to be challenged. To this effect, we signed an agreement with the country's three main political forces on 9 February, and the deadline to file all these challenges was set for 5 March. To prove our political resolve, the deadline was postponed several times until it was finally set for 27 May. Some cases were even analyzed one month later. Of course, this situation triggered uncertainty and destabilization among the IFE staff. This is how we have been working all these months, always running major and evident risks, but we did it to show our political resolve was aimed at improving our electoral institutions.

2. These are other aspects we must stress: new laws for electoral crimes and the creation of a special prosecutor's office to study and evaluate those cases juridically.

3. The creation of a commission formed by all political parties to analyze the programs and to monitor the electoral ability of the citizens chosen to be polling station officials.

4. The attachment of the ballots to numbered stubs to control them properly.

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5. The installation of screens to guarantee the secrecy of the vote.

6. As for the electronic media, we increased free airtime for political parties by 180 percent as compared to the time granted in 1991; additional radio airtime was granted to broadcast political ads paid for by the IFE daily, and free airtime was granted to broadcast the debates on television.

7. According to a study performed by the IFE itself, we took some steps to ensure a balanced access to the media, especially to the newscasts, and to broadcast the closings of the presidential campaigns.

8. The parties' paid political ads were taken off the air 10 days before the elections; only the campaign closings were broadcast.

9. The social ad campaigns of such programs as Procampo [Program of Direct Support to the Countryside] and Pronasol [National Solidarity Program] were taken off the air in August.

10. The IFE General Council signed an agreement to ensure that the electoral packages will not be destroyed until six months after the end of the electoral process.

VI. Was the 21 August electoral process perfect? Of course not. There were problems, irregularities, and mistakes by some IFE officials, some polling station officials, and some of the young individuals who transmitted the PREP information. However, there was no deliberate plan to commit those irregularities; they were not committed fraudulently to favor or harm any political party.

Laws provide the means for political parties to exercise their rights and to present their arguments and evidence. The Federal Electoral Tribunal will make a judicial decision in each specific case. The allegations are not important; the proof and only the proof is.

The Tribunal is made up of prominent and honorable jurists, and the Tribunal president and four magistrates of the Federal judicial branch form the Superior Court.

No one questioned the Tribunal or its members during the previous months when a big national political debate on our electoral system was held. In the last two days, however, I have read two criticisms of it.

Do you think those who questioned the whole electoral process will respect the juridical decisions that do not favor them, or will they try to make political controversies out of their rulings? What do you think?

In addition, some acts, presumably criminal acts, were reported during the electoral process. These have already been reported to the special prosecutor, who, in accordance with the evidence gathered during the previous investigations, will decide whether to prosecute.

Thus there are legal means for finding solutions to irregularities or alleged electoral crimes. In all cases, the law must be fully enforced, and whenever the evidence reveals irregularities, they should be corrected and legal action taken. Under no circumstances should anyone who has committed a crime go unpunished. It is not right, however, to try to tarnish the 21 August elections, which are already part of the Mexican people's accomplishments, without any evidence or through biased methods.

VII. Does Mexico already have the electoral system we all want? No. We still have several steps to take in that direction, although we Mexicans achieved a great deal in preparing the 21 August elections. I am very proud of Mexicans and of being Mexican. At the conclusion of the IFE General Council session, which began on 21 August and ended on 22 August at 1630, I said: "I believe that together we implemented the constitutional, legal, and administrative reforms that were the legal framework of these elections. It is not up to us to judge these achievements, but I am convinced we took many steps forward. We cannot go back. We will have to take more steps forward from now on." President Salinas himself recognized this goal during the speech he delivered on 18 August.

Based on this idea, there are still aspects that must be improved upon and reforms to implement. The main political parties must reach a consensus to move forward in such aspects of our electoral democracy as having more balance in the conditions of the electoral process, strengthening a real system of political parties, continuing with the process to remove the government powers from electoral organizations, and issuing more specific instructions for the role the media must play in the electoral competition.

We, the people of Mexico, voted on 21 August in favor of peace and against violence; we voted for changes within legal system. We did not vote out of fear. On the contrary, the 77.73 percent who voted did so with conviction and went out into the streets precisely for this reason—to vote peacefully and happily.

Many arguments can be raised and many words spoken. What matters is what we saw and experienced on 21 August. You saw it, and you can form your own opinion.

The election results may or may not please us, and we may or may not agree with them, but they express the people's choice, and in a democracy it is our obligation to respect them. Of course, we must still deal with a number of issues to perfect our democracy; that is why we are in need of reforms like the ones I mentioned, which also imply the strengthening of a democratic culture and mentality. The people's votes are sacred, they cannot be questioned, they must be accepted, and, if irregularities are detected, then existing legal recourses must be used to resolve them.

I must make special mention of the large majority of people who, doing their respectable duty as mass communicators; reporters; journalists; analysts; columnists;

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and radio, television, and newspaper commentators, informed Mexican society of the development of the electoral process with veracity and objectivity. Full respect for freedom of expression is one of a human being's main rights, and it must be exercised with responsibility.

I hereby express my acknowledgement of the thousands of Mexicans who are members of the political parties' boards of directors, who conducted themselves with maturity, patriotism, legality, and emotion. Their efforts stand out more when they are compared with the exceptions, which are ever present.

On various occasions I have asked Mexican society to tell the truth, always the truth, to struggle against the culture of falsehoods. In the end, the truth always prevails. In this electoral process the IFE General Council has ordered 22 audits and technical reports for no other reason than to learn the truth. Among these inquiries are the report on the replacement of voting table officials on Election Day, the report on the disparity between the numbers and pages (folios) of the votes delivered to the voting table presidents and the information entered in the respective documents, and the report on the result of the comparison of nominal lists used by the voting table presidents on Election Day. Many related reports have been completed. Others will be completed within the next few days or weeks, and when they are compiled along with the Federal Electoral Tribunal resolutions, the entire truth about the electoral process will be known.

Today, in conclusion, I have expressed the truth regarding the electoral process. I have decided to continue examining this truth and to tell it in the future to Mexican society.

We, the Mexican people, despite our diversity and pluralism, must unite and move forward with our political democracy, while keeping social democracy in mind; in other words, we must remember the struggle against poverty.

We Mexicans must put the country's interests before our personal or group interests. The Mexican people should always be guided by the sacrosanct phrase uttered by a Mexican hero, martyr, and patriot: The fatherland is first.

Always and forever: The fatherland is first.

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Guatemala

Foreign Minister Praises Resolution of Haiti Crisis

PA2109044894 Guatemala City LA REPUBLICA in Spanish 20 Sep 94 p 6

[Text] Foreign Relations Minister Marithza Ruiz de Vielman yesterday said the solution of the Haitian crisis proves that problems can be resolved through dialogue and that "this solution represents hope for the world." The peaceful resolution of conflicts is a method the international community will continue to endorse. She added that many lives were saved through this agreement with the Haitian rulers, and, more important, democratic values which must be upheld in every country prevailed.

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Argentina

Caputo Believes U.S. Acted Unilaterally in Agreement With Haiti

PY2109024394 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1753 GMT 20 Sep 94

[Text] Buenos Aires, 20 Sep (EFE)—On 20 September, Dante Caputo, the former UN special envoy in Haiti, stated that General Raoul Cedras—who led the coup that toppled Haitian President Jean-Bertrand Aristide from power—managed to get what he wanted from the diplomatic negotiations with the United States.

Caputo said: "This is what he (Cedras) wanted—to remain in Haiti, to have the Americans instead of the United Nations in Haiti—that is, that the forces that landed in Haiti comprised U.S. rather than UN servicemen—and to be able to organize a political movement in Haiti in order to continue to keep a power structure."

In remarks made to "DYN," an Argentine independent news agency, Caputo believed that Gen. Cedras "will not leave the country. He will stay in Haiti and will become the leader of a new political party there."

Caputo added that the United States was supposed "to have consulted and informed" the United Nations about the progress of the negotiations undertaken between Haiti and the U.S. mission headed by former President Jimmy Carter, but "it did not do so."

"The total absence of consultation or even information by the United States leads one to conclude that this country has, in fact, made the decision to act unilaterally," he underscored.

Caputo, who in his capacity as UN envoy tried to reach a negotiated settlement on the Haitian crisis, tendered his resignation on 19 September in view of the agreement hammered out in Port-au-Prince with the U.S. envoys.

Last year, Caputo had managed to have the coupists commit themselves to stepping down from power so as to allow the reinstatement of Jean-Bertrand Aristide as president, but the agreement fell through because the military did not keep their word.

In any case, Caputo pointed out that the agreement has some positive aspects. "First, it managed to avoid bloodshed and the use of force. Second, the military will step down, and third, Aristide will be reinstated in office," he commented.

Doctors, Others To Leave for Haiti 26 Sep

PY2109025794 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 0031 GMT 21 Sep 94

[Text] Buenos Aires, 20 Sep (NA)—On 20 September, Foreign Minister Guido Di Tella reported that an Argentine delegation comprising 100 people, including physicians and specialists in other areas, will leave for Haiti on 26 September "to participate in the new phase that country is about to start."

During a news conference at the Foreign Ministry, Di Tella announced that following the peaceful solution to the conflict in that Central American country, the two Argentine vessels now in Haitian territorial waters "are getting ready to return forthwith."

Asked about the resignation of former Foreign Minister Dante Caputo as UN envoy in Haiti, Di Tella asserted that "in light of the final settlement to the crisis, he obviously thought that his mission was over."

The foreign minister explained that the Menem administration's offer of political asylum to de facto Haitian President Raoul Cedras [title as received] "was prompted by the will to contribute to the solution of the conflict."

Di Tella added that "it is not as if we are delighted with (Jean-Bertrand) Aristide; we are delighted with democracy."

He further stated that the Argentine delegation that will travel to Haiti will comprise physicians, specialists in different areas, and professionals in general, who will help in building the new democracy."

Senate President Reconfirms Sovereignty Over Falklands

PY1609233894 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 0148 GMT 16 Sep 94

[Text] Buenos Aires, 15 Sep (TELAM)—Senate Provisional President Eduardo Menem firmly reconfirmed Argentine sovereignty over the Malvinas Islands and described as "absurd" British efforts to apply the principle of self-determination to keep the islands occupied.

The ruling-party senator emphasized that the principle of self- determination only applies when raised by "the indigenous population, not by inhabitants of a colonialist power."

The senator from La Rioja Province said this while addressing the 92nd World Inter-Parliamentary Assembly in Copenhagen, Denmark, where he is heading the Argentine delegation.

Menem said: "This serious act of usurpation was very different from other cases of colonialism." His remarks were released by the Senate press office in Buenos Aires.

The congressman recalled that, in 1833, British invaders "totally dislodged the Argentines who inhabited the islands and installed settlers transported from the United Kingdom."

Menem, Paraguay's Wasmosy Inaugurate Power Line

PY1909183494 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1044 GMT 19 Sep 94

[Excerpt] Formosa, 19 Sep (TELAM)—Argentine President Carlos Menem and Paraguayan President Juan

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Carlos Wasmosy have inaugurated a high tension link between the towns of Clorinda [Argentina] and Guarambare [Paraguay]. This is a new step in the integration process between the two nations.

The ceremony was held on 18 September in Clorinda. Menem maintained that this type of initiative shows "we are advancing firmly and decidedly toward the integration of our countries."

He mentioned that the implementation of the Mercosur [Common Market of the South] in January 1995 "is a clear example of these intentions and of the spirit of complementation that encourages the nations of the Southern Cone."

Menem stressed: "We are working tirelessly to complete and finish this process, not just between neighboring territories, but also throughout the continent. From Alaska to Tierra del Fuego—including the Malvinas Islands, which are Argentine."

Wasmosy stated that the electrical grid is "bringing to fruition the interdependence of our countries within a framework of economic complementation and integration that is called Mercosur."

Menem agreed with Wasmosy that the grid is "another step, but a very important one, toward greater rapprochement and understanding which we share and which we presidents must resolve."

It has been reported that the project cost $12 million. It adds 80 megawatts of power from the Paraguayan Acaray hydroelectric plant to the Riel-Nea energy system.

The Guarambare-Clorinda connection will resolve the energy demand of the province of Formosa and the northeastern part of Argentina. The project follows a joint declaration and the energy integration protocol that were signed by the two countries on 2 November 1989.

The hook up consists of a 43-km, 220-kilowatt high-tension line that includes a river crossing between Puerto Bouvier, Argentina, and Puerto Mariscal Lopez, Paraguay. [passage omitted]

Armed Forces Leaders Review Salary Policy Issue

PY2009163494 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 0004 GMT 20 Sep 94

[Text] Buenos Aires, 19 Sep (TELAM)—Today the Armed Forces top brass separately assessed the Armed Forces salary policy that will again be reviewed on 21 September by Economy Minister Domingo Cavallo and Defense Minister Oscar Camilion.

Cavallo pointed out today that military salaries will be gradually improved beginning next year as the Armed Forces reorganization program advances through the sale of assets and properties.

The Armed Forces leaders informed their subordinates today of last week's meetings with President Carlos Menem and Ministers Cavallo and Camilion.

Military sources told TELAM that Cavallo, Camilion, and Eduardo Bauza, the secretary general of the presidency, are scheduled to meet again on 21 September to continue reviewing this issue.

The sources indicated that the Armed Forces are asking for "an aggregated salary increase of about 850 million pesos per year."

It was made clear that of this, 500 million pesos are earmarked for the various "supplements" now included in the salaries of active-duty military personnel.

Generals, admirals, and brigadiers—the top brass in the military power structure—receive 3,000 pesos per month while recently promoted officers like second lieutenants, midshipmen, and ensigns get 700 pesos per month.

The sources pointed out: "The current ratio between the salaries of second lieutenants and generals is one to four. It used to be one to seven and should be one to 10."

The sources stressed: "The Armed Forces are asking for a monthly salary of 6,000 pesos for chiefs of staff, which is what the president of the Nation receives."

As a consequence of today's meetings, General Martin Balza, the Army chief of staff, canceled a scheduled visit to Santiago de Chile where he was specially invited by his Chilean counterpart, General Augusto Pinochet. Instead he chaired a meeting with all his generals at the "Libertador" Army headquarters building.

Admiral Enrique Molina Pico, the Navy chief of staff, met with the Council of Admirals at the "Libertad" Navy headquarters building. He told the Navy leadership about last week's meeting with President Carlos Menem, who admitted that "salaries are very low."

The admirals also reviewed applications for administrative funds for an undetermined number of Navy personnel who want unremunerative supplements to be included in their salaries.

Brigadier Juan Paulik, the Air Force chief of staff, met with the brigadiers who hold commanding posts and reviewed the Air Force's budget situation.

Cavallo Criticizes Rural Leaders' Policy Change Demands

PY2009005494 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1939 GMT 19 Sep 94

[Text] Buenos Aires, 19 Sep (NA)—Economy Minister Domingo Cavallo today compared mercantile and agrarian leaders who seek the support of provincial authorities with "those who during other times knocked at the doors of the barracks" to solve their problems.

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Cavallo recognized that in Argentina "we continue to have very serious social problems," adding that provincial and municipal governments are "the main institutions responsible for satisfying the needs of the most needy families."

"This thing of trying to get the support of a mayor or a governor to pressure the national government to return to past practices in economic and social matters is equivalent to what some Argentine citizens did in the past when they knocked at the doors of the barracks," the economy minister emphasized.

Cavallo admitted that Argentina "continues to have very poor quality education and health, and very little security and justice," and warned: "The social infrastructure in interior cities and regions is far behind the appropriate level."

Cavallo once again urged governors to go ahead with the privatization of services in their provinces, particularly in the area of electricity generation." [no opening quotation marks as received]

"In this way the money will reach those families who most need it, transformed into high quality services," Cavallo said.

"Argentina must change its social structure," Cavallo stressed, reiterating that "the basic responsibility for the task falls on provincial and municipal governments."

Cavallo used the podium prepared for the inauguration of the Seventh Annual Convention of the Provincial Banks Association of the Argentine Republic (Abapra) to reject attempts made by some groups, such as those in the mercantile and agricultural area, to get the support of governors for their demands.

Some mercantile entities were able to enlist the support of regional authorities for their campaign against General Directorate of Taxation and Commerce Secretariat procedures, and to implement blackouts and protest demonstrations.

Rural society leaders, meanwhile, are betting on the support of governors such as Eduardo Duhalde (Buenos Aires), Carlos Reutemann (Santa Fe), and Ruben Marin (La Pampa) to help them in their requests to the economy minister to change the critical situation affecting agriculture.

In effect, Argentine Rural Society President Eduardo de Zavalia, Coninagro [Agricultural-Livestock Intercooperative Confederation] President Leonidas Gasoni, Agrarian Federation President Humberto Volando, and CARBAP [Confederation of Buenos Aires and La Pampa Rural Associations] President Mario Llambias agreed with Buenos Aires Production Minister Carlos Brown to issue a document listing provincial agriculture's demands.

Rural society leaders now want to enlist Duhalde's support before presenting the document to the economy minister. They are also negotiating with Reutemann and Marin for the same purpose.

Cavallo, however, stood firm, and said today that "the practice used by social organizations in the past to influence politicians and the economy, or to try to transform the system into an instrument to solve certain group problems, has lost all sense."

"Argentina is politically and economically well organized and will not change the rules of democracy and an open economy, which only seeks efficiency and growth, because of the problems of a particular group," Cavallo said.

Referring to the shortcomings of the educational system, Cavallo stressed the increase in funds assigned to education, and promised that "there will be more money" for provinces that eliminate the bureaucracy created by the superposition of school councils, and reduce their excessive administrative personnel.

Cavallo's speech had a strong political content. He stressed that "it is very important for citizens to realize that (in the economy) changes are irreversible." He admitted, however, the possible introduction of "improvements."

Industry Secretariat Proposes Joining Patents Treaty

PY2009140794 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 0026 GMT 20 Sep 94

[Text] Buenos Aires, 19 Sep (NA)—Argentina will sign the Patents Cooperation Treaty. The move will allow inventors, companies, and laboratories to patent their products throughout the world easily and cheaply.

The Industry Secretariat sent the project to the Economy Ministry, which will send it to the Foreign Ministry, which will send it to Congress.

The announcement was made by Industry Secretariat officials Norma Felix—the director of Technology, Quality, and Intellectual Property—and Ernesto Rubio—the director of the International Organization for Intellectual Property Latin American office.

The officials said the treaty was signed in 1978 by 18 countries. Today it has 73 members including Brazil, the most important partner of Argentina in Mercosur [Common Market of the South].

Felix and Rubio said Argentina's incorporation will facilitate the proceedings to obtain patents abroad, adding that it "in no way means we accept foreign legislation" on the matter.

"Each country applies its own norms in the area of intellectual property," said Rubio when asked about the controversial medicinal patents law issue.

The secretariat organized a seminar today to analyze the benefits of signing the treaty. Entrepreneurs, business

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chamber representatives, inventors, lawyers, and intellectual property agents participated.

FG Leader 'Chacho' Alvarez Interviewed

PY0809210394 Buenos Aires CLARIN in Spanish 4 Sep 94 pp 2, 3

[Interview with Grand Front, FG, leader Carlos "Chacho" Alvarez by Sergio Ciancaglini and Fernando Cibeira, at his Congress office "this week"]

[Text] [CLARIN] Alvarez, [Jose Octavio] Bordon and [Federico] Storani are close at hand. Is this an alliance or a collection of people who do not fit elsewhere?

[Alvarez] This convergence seeks to bring oxygen to democracy and add a political option. The bipartisan system has narrowed the political scenery, and besides, our movement implies a return to our ideological roots. The two parties have more to do with tradition than with present and future political projects. Leaders who agree on political issues, like us, must get together, independent of our backgrounds. Today's challenges are altogether different from the challenges of 15 or 20 years ago.

[CLARIN] Will the search for agreement provoke ruptures within the Grand Front?

[Alvarez] They will provoke more openings than ruptures. The FG has proved that most people support progressive attitudes. Ethics, new ideas, ideals, progressive ideas, and modern values were in the hands of the minorities; the losers, those who did not understand politics, the world of idiots or children [sentence as published]. The truth in politics has been the apparatus. Parties that understood politics were others [reference unknown]. The FG was not conceived as a traditional and marginal leftist party. We are not losers. That is what the supporters of [President Carlos] Menem cannot accept. That is why they attack us. They cannot understand why a group of supporters would continue to dream of the things we always dreamed. The country and the world have changed, but we have not changed our concept of politics. We do not seek personal power. We think of politics as something collective, belonging to a group. We are not the employees of some entrepreneur. We do not have an apparatus, but our words have new value. People believe us. Words can also build democratic power.

[CLARIN] Do you really think Menem can be beaten?

[Alvarez] Yes. We must enter the level that is saturated with what Menem established, transmitting the idea that positive things can be preserved. Every Argentine feels saturated, moral indigestion, coexisting with a fear of a return to the past, to hyperinflation. We will propose changes that respect what people consider progress.

[CLARIN] What concrete measures would you adopt over poverty and unemployment?

[Alvarez] First we must build a new state. The privatization process was not conducted in an orderly fashion. The state has not improved health or education conditions, or the standard of living, or social security. We have not been given the needed state reform. The left hand of the state must efficiently repair injustices. We must allocate resources in a different way. For instance, we spent $15 billion in health. That is a lot of money, which was not spent well because of irrational situations, corruption, and anarchy. I think we must transfer revenues from the banking and financial sector to the productive sector. We must reconvert the productive system to improve competitiveness and assemble an exporting industrial profile, which is not provided by this economic model. Besides, we did not have social policies. The highest levels of corruption in government occurred in the areas of social spending: Cardozo's [nor further identified] solidarity bonds, the PAMI [Comprehensive Medical Assistance Plan], and the Mortgage Bank affair. We must change the political climate.

[CLARIN] There is a generalized idea that there is no alternative plan.

[Alvarez] That is what people say. Others say we need radical changes. The two are extreme positions. There is ample space in the middle. It has to do with a different administration. The idea that we have a closed model, a model that we cannot touch, is advantageous for the government. If someone proposes another model, people think you will throw away everything good in the previous model. I do not propose another model. I propose policies to improve the system, recognizing what is good in what has been done.

[CLARIN] What would you do to fight corruption?

[Alvarez] The first question is are we different politicians? The government conveys the feeling that corruption is permitted. As [former Interior Minister Jose Luis] Manzano said: "I steal for the crown." That is the idea. We must convey the idea that corruption will not be tolerated. Menem protects people charged with corruption. The government must send out different signals. When I talk with entrepreneurs, I ask them to elaborate a code of ethics because there is a perverse connection between entrepreneurs and politicians. We must change the rule of the game of privileges. That must define the type of capitalism we want to install in the country. We want a different capitalism, with different rules, and with a political leadership with autonomy from entrepreneurs, who will find the scheme more trustworthy and cheaper. We must also get used to an independent justice system. The government should take the initiative and send those suspected of involvement in corruption to court. That will change the moral quality of our lives. We can then ask the people to put an extra effort. Corruption has cultural roots and is influenced by the image of power. It would be nice to see the government punish, not cover up. The Menemist philosophy created the idea that power is associated with personal enrichment.

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[CLARIN] Surveys show that people feel insecure.

[Alvarez] People feel insecure due to poverty and the economic crisis. The police generate more fear and insecurity. They are also associated with corruption. Unless the mentality of the police changes, our efforts to increase security could result in more repression and less freedom. These are things we can propose, changes we can implement. There is a path marked by the economic model, but there is a broad space for the model of society we want to develop. Security is an example. The right wing has purely repressive concepts that only hurt democracy. There is a privileged world for people who are born, study, and rest in private climates. Those displaced from society and the middle class live a different world. They get the worst from the state: bad schools and hospitals, bad security, and bad standards of living. The idea of society is lost with this fragmentation. I think politics must reconstruct the sense of democratic and pluralistic community, despite social differences. A vision of excessive emphasis in the economy, as we have today, makes politics loose all meaning. All social groups, even the poorest, behave differently if they feel they are included, even if only symbolically. We are experiencing a very strong cultural conservatism, an economically and symbolically exclusive attitude.

[CLARIN] Would you change the peso-dollar relationship?

[Alvarez] No. That relationship sets limits, but the issue of convertibility has a very strong social effect that we cannot touch. We have an indebted society. Changing that is not like changing a number. It would affect many people and generate uncertainty.

[CLARIN] Would you revise the privatization process?

[Alvarez] We must be careful with juridical security. The country needs investments. We question Menem's respect for our legal system and we cannot violate that principle ourselves. We must be strict and use our tax system to control services, utility rates, and even profits. These continue to be public services.

[CLARIN] What can you rescue from the Menem administration.

[Alvarez] People feel things have improved compared with the uncertainty prevailing during the last Radical [Radical Civic Union] administration. There is a feeling of economic rationality, even though based in injustice or salary freezing. It is a foundation, a rationality we must face with a superior rationality. Any alternative proposal must carefully consider the people's common sense. There is a proposal that what has been achieved can be consolidated, but we can also make progress in areas that are lagging behind. At least, it will inspire an interesting debate in the country.

[CLARIN] What about your similarities or differences with Bordon?

[Alvarez] Our humanistic conception of politics is similar. We are not dazzled by individual power but by a project for the country. We feel we cannot grow without social integration because it would place our democracy at risk, making it an authoritarian, or a "hard democracy" [democradura]. As a difference I can cite that Bordon is ideologically closer to the Church's social doctrine. I belong to the progressive current, although today I no longer know how important this type of difference is.

Bolivia

Daily Urges Accord on Coca Policy Before U.S. Talks

PY2009172694 La Paz LA RAZON in Spanish 7 Sep 94 p A5

[Editorial: "Let's Reach Agreement Before Talking to the United States"]

[Text] The title of this commentary, a phrase by President Gonzalo Sanchez de Lozada, fully reflects the chief of state's current attitude to Bolivia's priority issue: Its relationship with the United States over the struggle against trafficking. President Sanchez believes all sectors of Bolivian society must contribute to draft a policy that will have enough domestic force to be adopted successfully at this difficult and risky moment. This situation follows the application of pressure by the United States on one side and the coca growers on the other.

The first point to consider is that proposals for a patriotic formula must look to the future and not to the past. Criticizing former governments is useless. It merely prompts negative attitudes and makes those affected refuse to cooperate in the proposed objective. If every party assumes its share of responsibility in the mistakes, and we understand that previous administrations were forced to adopt measures about which they were not fully convinced, there is a chance of achieving the required level of national unity to adopt a common policy.

It is up to the other public sectors—beyond the political parties—that are part of the democratic decisionmaking mechanism, to clearly state their position on the crucial subject. Alternative development has failed—even Sanchez de Lozada admitted this. An attempt was made to implement it on a very small scale without considering that the coca growers have organized, as everyone knows, a very powerful union. An attempt was made to convince coca growers to change their plantations for passion fruit, pineapples, and bananas, but a comparison shows that the profit obtained from coca plantations is huge.

Voluntary eradication of coca plantations in Chapare in exchange for money was not successful because once the grower gets the money he replants further away or sometimes even in the same place. A battalion of supervisors would be necessary to check this situation.

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The serious problem lies in the compulsory eradication as established in Law No. 1008, which the coca growers strongly oppose. The apparently peaceful resistance may become violent at any moment; the scheduled rallies dismantled by the security forces are an obvious indication of latent violence.

The U.S. Embassy could at any moment resume its offensive by giving the government an ultimatum to apply that unfeasible and compulsory law or suffer the consequences of the despicable economic sanctions with which the U.S. Government punishes those who do not follow its orders. The arrival of a new mission head is probably awaited for this. That will be the moment for the confrontations that we must avoid at any cost.

As a positive step towards a deep-rooted solution, our government could promote an international meeting sponsored by the United Nations to discuss the decriminalization of coca production. At the same time we could try to get the United States to extend the deadline for the compulsory eradication. These negotiations would be more effective in Washington than in La Paz because that is where the true decisions are made.

Passport, Visa Trafficking 'Controlled' by 'Mafias'

PY1409221394 La Paz PRESENCIA in Spanish 27 Aug 94 p 5

[Article by Nicolas Fernandez Motino]

[Excerpt] The illegal trafficking of Bolivian passports and visas in Asia, Middle East, and Europe is being controlled by international mafias with links in Bolivia. Several Bolivians have been involved since 1980 in this illegal business that generates large profits.

The most experienced traffickers belong to Chinese organizations that have operations centers in La Paz, Cochabamba, and Santa Cruz from where they easily obtain passports, visas, naturalization certificates, identification cards, birth certificates, signatures, seals, and other documents from the offices of the Migration Department, Consulates, the Police, the Foreign Ministry, the Labor Ministry, and even from the Municipal Mayor.

Intense world migration movement for economic reasons, restrictions on obtaining passports, and conditions on entering or leaving a country have created the black market of travel and residence documents.

Bolivia has become an important center for passports and visas, as well as another papers because it is possible to obtain them easily—perhaps for the lack of a migration law or because of the corruption of some officials.

Several thousand Chinese citizens have arrived in Bolivia, taking advantage of a single migration mechanism approved by national officials. Since 1987, the Bolivian consulates in Taiwan, the PRC, and Thailand have issued consular visas before they have been authorized by the Migration Under Secretariat in La Paz. It is here that the illegal actions occur.

The Migration Department used to send to consulates names of Chinese citizens that had been accepted by Bolivia whether as tourists or with a "given objective."

The Spanish police this year discovered that the "Great Dragon" organization, which is headquartered in Hong Kong, smuggles Chinese citizens with Bolivian passports. Several Chinese citizens were arrested while trying to enter Spanish territory from Bolivia.

The Great Dragon has agents called "Great Uncle" in each country, while the "triads" and the "snake heads" act as "guides" and "guardians" of those who leave China. [passage omitted]

COB Leader Warns Against Risk of MBL Split

PY2009031694 La Paz PRESENCIA in Spanish 5 Sep 94 p 4

[Text] Ricardo Fernandez, secretary of the Bolivian Labor Federation (COB) and an active member of the Free Bolivia Movement (MBL), said yesterday that the MBL is running the risk of losing its union brigade, because its "strange and contradictory" behavior is already irritating the workers who are part of that party.

Fernandez criticized the MBL, led by Foreign Minister Antonio Aranibar, for having lost its previous ideological and political ideals of the left, and for having resorted to "strange and contradictory behavior" for only having acquired a "small piece" of power.

These remarks show that tranquillity does not prevail in the internal relations of the MBL, although after the 10th COB congress held in Tarija the party's problems with the union brigade were felt publicly, especially a few days before and during the development of the large meeting of Bolivian workers.

The dissatisfaction of worker members of the ruling coalition increased over the past few weeks, when the government ordered the imprisonment of coca producer leaders and the repression of the peasants' national march. During that repressive action three coca leader members of the MBL—among them David Herrada—were arrested.

Herrada, in addition to being a union leader, is an alternate to Cochabamba Deputy Alfonso Ferrufino. Therefore, despite his investiture, remains under arrest.

For this reason Fernandez criticized the "senseless behavior of the party (MBL) leaders who did not even care about the release of Herrada and other arrested members, and much less called for the end of the repression against coca producers."

Fernandez, in addition to warning about the possible split in the MBL labor sector, also threatened his personal resignation from the party if "within the next few hours the party board does not negotiate the release of the arrested peasants."

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"Within the government the MBL board is showing another face, which was not known to us," he said.

Fernandez lamented the "strange" behavior of MBL Deputy Miguel Urioste. This political figure, when he was in the opposition, had proposed in one of his books on agricultural and indigenous problems, upon assessing the dramatic situation in the fields, the "subversion of the peasants' conscience."

It is strange that he is calling the peasants "subversives" precisely now that they are taking to the streets and staging a march to express their demands, Fernandez said, referring to a public statement by Urioste in which he attacked the coca producers.

He added that while the MBL used to push the workers to subversion, now that we have achieved only "a small piece" of power the leaders assume strange and contradictory behavior.

Brazil

Franco on Haiti, Says Brazil 'Committed to Peace'

PY2009231794 Sao Paulo AGENCIA ESTADO in Portuguese 2059 GMT 20 Sep 94

[Text] Brasilia, 20 Sep (AE)—Commenting on the Haitian political crisis that led to an occupation of that country by U.S. troops, President Itamar Franco today said that Brazil has been historically committed to peace. He added: "Our diplomacy is fundamentally based on principles such as that requiring a peaceful solution to controversies, the sovereign equality of all states, each people's right to self-determination, noninterference, and respect for International Law."

Upon greeting at Planalto Palace a delegation of participants to the 22d Meeting of Directors of Diplomatic Academies and International Relations Institutes that is convening in Brasilia, Franco added that it was based on these principles that Brazil abstained from voting on the UN Security Council resolution that authorized the U.S. intervention. In a brief speech, Franco said that "the issue of noninterference and the need to respect the rules of International Law" forced Brazil to abstain.

Peter Krogh, director of the U.S. Diplomatic Academy, greeted the president during a short ceremony attended by representatives of more than 40 countries. Krogh said: "Brazil has long been recognized for the excellence of its diplomacy." He added: "Perhaps the Brazilian potential should now be better exploited."

Haitian Embassy: Aristide 'Refuses To Endorse' Amnesty Pact

PY2009165594 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1553 GMT 20 Sep 94

[Text] Brasilia, 20 Sep (EFE)—The Haitian Embassy in Brazil reported today that overthrown Haitian President Jean Bertrand Aristide refuses to endorse the agreement signed in Port-au-Prince on 18 September because his constitutional government was not consulted on the U.S. plan.

In a communique delivered to EFE in Brasilia, the diplomatic delegation added that, because it was not consulted, the government of Aristide "can under no circumstances be considered part of the agreement, and refuses to endorse the maneuvers which do not reflect the will of the Haitian people."

Apparently Aristide is against a clause of the pact that leaves in the hands of the Haitian Parliament the granting of an amnesty to the military men who carried out the coup against him in September 1991 and who have now promised to leave power.

The Embassy communique recalls that Article 147 of the Haitian Constitution says that the president is the only one who "can grant amnesty on political issues according to the law."

The agreement reached by ex-U.S. President Jimmy Carter and the Haitian military officials establishes that some Army officers will take early retirement and that parliament has until 15 October to vote on a general amnesty.

Commentary Examines 'Promising' Ties With Russia

PY2009005894 Rio de Janeiro JORNAL DO BRASIL in Portuguese 16 Sep 94 p 11

[Commentary by Foreign Ministry Secretary General Roberto Abdenur: "Brazil and Russia"]

[Text] Until Mikhail Gorbachev reached Soviet power in 1985, relations between Brazil and the then USSR were correct but distant, and concentrated only on commercial matters. After the changes in the international arena and in the domestic situation of both countries, the conditions developed for promoting bilateral relations in various fields. The important agreements that were reached during a visit to Moscow by then President Jose Sarney in 1988 provided a significant framework for promoting cooperation. Today there are particularly good prospects for developing even closer ties with Russia, the state that succeeded the old USSR.

Some similar features have facilitated this closer approach. Both countries of continental dimensions and acknowledged regional influence, Brazil and Russia have approximately the same Gross Domestic Product, similar population figures, vast natural resources, and significant industrial infrastructure. Both countries are going through a process of opening up and modernization of their economies and liberalizing their commerce, the figures for which are, for that matter, similar: In the first half of 1994, Russia's foreign trade reached $34.5 billion, while Brazilian foreign trade stood at $33.1 billion. Countries that do not belong to the old USSR account for 54 percent of Russia's foreign trade. Russia

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is planning to join GATT, at which Brazil—in its capacity as influential founding member—may share its experience with Russia.

In the political field, Brazil and Russia have global interests and a diversified pattern of international relations. Today, with Russia's approach to the Western world, the two countries share significant coincidences. The two countries are members of the UN Security Council, where they maintain a mutually beneficial dialogue—Russia as one of the five permanent members, and Brazil in its seventh term as a non-permanent member.

The development of Russian relations with Latin America, and particularly with Brazil, is a growing priority not only for Russian diplomacy, but also for their main political leaders. Brazil, in turn, has a strong interest in strengthening its relations with Russia, a country offering broad exchange opportunities in the economic, commercial, cultural, scientific, and technological fields. The prospects are quite favorable in the technological field given Russia's high-level qualification and other bilateral complementary interests. Contacts between the two countries have been, consequently, intensifying. I officially visited Moscow last June and met with high-ranking government officials such as Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev, who much to my surprise showed a good knowledge of Portuguese, which he speaks and reads fluently. Foreign Minister Celso Amorim is planning to visit Russia this year, possibly in October, at the invitation of the Russian Government. He intends to carry a very expressive entrepreneurial delegation with him.

These and other initiatives seek to progressively overcome an important hurdle in our bilateral relations: our mutual ignorance of market and cooperation opportunities. In fact, our bilateral trade did not exceed $94.7 million in the period from January to April 1994, despite the two countries' complementary character. Today we are seeking to identify new areas where we can increase our exchange, taking into account Mercosur [Common Market of the South]. The agricultural, agro-industrial, chemical, and petrochemical areas are promising. Besides, Brazilian experience in the control of medium and small-sized companies could be very valuable for Russian entrepreneurs at this moment of transition in that country.

The institutional picture that will guide relations between the two countries is being finished. A few months ago we signed the Protocol of Intentions for Economic-Commercial Cooperation, and a few days ago the Agreement for Cooperation on the Peaceful Use of Nuclear Energy. The delegation accompanying Amorim to Moscow will try to conclude the Treaty on Bases for Brazilian-Russian Relations and Memorandums of Understanding for the Development of Cooperation in Mastering Environmental Defense and for Political Consultation. There is also a chance officials will sign, at the appropriate time, agreements on investment protection and promotion and for avoiding double taxing.

The work developed by the Brazilian Embassy in Moscow—today one of our largest—has greatly contributed to instilling more dynamism into our relations with Russia. The embassy in Moscow has been successfully facing the double challenge of contributing to strengthening our bilateral relations while keeping the Brazilian Government informed on developments in Russia and former Soviet Union member countries.

There is still, naturally, a great deal of ground to cover. It is important, however, to seek means to develop better relations as of now, in order to be able to collect, in the future, the fruits of this promising partnership. With this we will be following a basic line of Brazilian foreign policy, that is, to search for new means for cooperation with countries representing important economic spaces; which were previously separated from the international commercial, investment, and scientific-technological system; and which are now open to dialogue and understanding, offering Brazil promising prospects.

Editorial Probes ICPD 'Recipe' for Population Stabilization

PY1609235294 Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 14 Sep 94 p A3

[Editorial from the "Notes and Information" page: "The Right to Reproduction"]

[Text] The UN International Conference on Population and Development [ICPD] has released a document of over 100 pages, a recipe for stabilizing world population over the next two decades. The Cairo Conference fortunately had no power to enforce its resolutions, and produced only recommendations that may or may not be followed. Neither the law nor coercion can interrupt the course of population growth. The strict laws seeking to check family growth in China are insufficient for controlling the reproductive impulses of thousands of Chinese women, just as the moral prohibitions by the Holy See on so-called artificial birth control methods are not enough to keep Catholics away from them. The course of population growth is marked by the complexities of instinct, psychological impulse, moral and religious imposition, world view, and social habits. Attempting to put all these factors on the same level would be a useless and arrogant bureaucratic exercise.

The Cairo Conference should gather together and disseminate birth control experiences and possibilities, and should also list the risks that the world is running because of exponential population growth. The list of suggestions will be available to every country, each one of which will adopt the best measures within its reach and according to its own needs. As a result of pressure by groups which—as international entities have begun to recognize that some nongovernmental organizations have the power to represent minorities—are becoming

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increasingly more influential, there has been a strong tendency to transform the Cairo Conference, in parallel, into an advance meeting of the Conference on the Rights of Women that will be held next year. There has also been a strong tendency to use the Cairo Conference as an opportunity to endorse, in a text of worldwide influence, sexual options about which most peoples and countries have severe reservations.

The strong reaction to this tendency has been led by the Vatican and the Islamic countries in general, and not by religious fundamentalists, as the forces that for so long blocked attempts to reach a consensus on abortion and sexual options have been trying to make us believe. This debate absorbed time that could have been earmarked for deep discussions, held on scientific bases, about the real threats and myths surrounding the topic of global overpopulation. It is also very necessary to review the dangers of a demographic explosion in face of the agricultural and industrial production techniques that have been appearing recently. These can reduce or increase the pressures created by population growth on natural resources and future generations.

On the contrary, the discussion focused on the moral aspects of abortion and homosexuality, and on the establishment of a new qualitative dimension in the separation of human genders: the reproductive rights of women. This right is defined as having access to reliable information and contraceptive methods consciously chosen by the woman, as well as access to hospital care in countries where abortion is legal. Had it not been for the feminists such a "right" would not have been more than another sort of well-organized family planning program. Now that it has been promoted to the level of a "right" all governments will want to regulate it, using a document drafted under UN sponsorship, and impose on women and their families the age bracket in which they can procreate and the number of children they can have, as has been done in the PRC. In a world in which freedom is an indivisible part of our lives, such a "right" is useless. In the regions where freedom is administered or does not exist, however, the fight to have these "rights" recognized could supply the missing argument for the implementation of compulsory policies on birth control.

Finance Minister Takes Command of Real Plan

PY2009161094 Sao Paulo FOLHA DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 18 Sep 94 Section 1 p 9

[Article by Sonia Mossri]

[Text] With the designation of Ciro Gomes to the Finance Ministry, the economic team lost predominance over the real plan. During his first 10 days in office, Gomes showed he has his own initiatives.

Planning Minister Beni Veras is playing a new role. While Fernando Henrique Cardoso and Rubens Ricupero were at the Finance Ministry, Veras did not have much influence on the real plan.

President Itamar Franco, who criticized the excessive technicality of the economic team, likes this new style.

There is another fact that further unites Ciro Gomes and Franco: The minister, like the president, objects to interest rate levels almost every day.

In the first measure he adopted upon assuming the Finance Ministry—import tariff reduction—Gomes disregarded the opinions of most of the economic team, and listened instead to the Ministry of Industry and Commerce.

Special Finance Ministry Adviser Edmar Bacha and Gustavo Franco, the Central Bank International Affairs department director, advocated zero import duty on durable goods.

Economic Policy Secretary Winston Fritsch and Finance Ministry Executive Secretary Clovis Carvalho wanted tariffs to drop by at least 50 percent.

Gomes did not accept any proposal, but adopted an average 30-percent reduction after consulting with Industry and Commerce Minister Elcio Alvares and with the technical team of the Ministry of Industry and Commerce.

The Finance Ministry team believes a drastic reduction in tariffs would prevent salary reindexation.

Ciro Gomes ended up by reducing tariffs, but not to the extent advocated by the Finance Ministry team. He considered the arguments of the Ministry of Industry and Commerce on the risks of investment reductions.

Yesterday in Fortaleza (Ceara State), Ciro Gomes said he may further reduce import tariffs "if necessary," adding: "We will not allow black market prices or shortages to harm the people. We will facilitate imports."

The minister added that the government has tried to resolve the Sao Paulo industrial belt metalworkers' strike, adding that he expects the conflict to be resolved by negotiations between entrepreneurs and workers.

"We have already prevented salary adjustments being passed on through prices."

Ciro Gomes said negotiations with bank workers and oil workers should be "first" handled by the involved parties.

To facilitate negotiations, the government authorized an IPC-r [Consumer Price Index-real] adjustment for official bank employees. Labor Minister Marcelo Pimentel will be available for resolving any impasse in the negotiations with bank and oil workers.

The minister said the September IPC-r will be under 2 percent. He said this estimate is based on prices over the past four weeks.

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Gomes said the Central Bank will take no special steps to save private banks that are in trouble.

The minister met with Ceara Governor Adalberto Barros Leal (who has no party). He will go to Sao Paulo today to meet entrepreneurs at the FIESP [Sao Paulo State Federation of Industries] building.

Cardoso Running Mate Denies Ghost Account Charges

PY2109035994 Rio de Janeiro JORNAL DO BRASIL in Portuguese 20 Sep 94 p 1

[Text] Senator Marco Maciel (PFL) [Liberal Front Party], the candidate for vice president on the Brazilian Social Democracy Party's ticket led by Fernando Henrique Cardoso, has said that he had never had any ties with Paulo Cesar Farias [former President Fernando Collor's campaign treasurer] and that he had never used a ghost account to finance his campaign for the Senate in 1990. Maciel was thus denying charges made against him by the magazine VEJA. Maciel charged the Workers Party [PT] with having prepared a dossier on which the magazine article was based. In a news conference, Maciel repeated at least 13 times that he is "calm" and "undisturbed" over an investigation concerning the facts of this case. He said: "On the contrary, I would like an investigation." He conveyed his "full agreement" with PT vice presidential candidate Aloizio Mercadante, who wants the investigation to conclude before the election date, that is, 3 October. Defending his running mate, Cardoso said that if anyone has to give any explanationa about checks deposited in ghost accounts in the 1990 campaign it should be Pernambuco Governor Joaquim Francisco. Former Finance Minister Rubens Ricupero is scheduled to testify today before the Superior Electoral Court about his off-camera remarks to TV Globo that provoked the "satellite antenna crisis."

PT Demands Action Against Lawmakers' Use of Printing House

PY1709000094 Sao Paulo AGENCIA ESTADO in Portuguese 2059 GMT 15 Sep 94

[Text] Brasilia, 15 Sep (AE)—PT [Workers Party] leaders today submitted to the office of the Electoral Court prosecutor the school notebooks that were printed at the Senate printing house by six senators, by Deputy Roseana Sarney (PFL-MA) [Liberal Front Party, Maranhao] by Paracatu (MG) [Minas Gerais] Mayor Manoel Borge, and, in 1992, by former Senator Marcondes Gadelha (PFL-PB) [PFL, Paraiba]. Oliveiro Marques, chief of the cabinet of PT Deputy Jose Fortunati (RG) [Rio Grande do Sul], reported that the party will ask the office of the Electoral Court prosecutor to adopt "strong measures" against those who used the Senate printing house for printing propaganda material. The PT wants them to return to public coffers what they spent with the material.

The notebooks were distributed by Senator Lavoisier Maia (PDT-RN) [Democratic Labor Party, Rio Grande do Norte], Senator Saldanha Derzi (PP-MS) [Popular Party, Mato Grosso do Sul], Senator Ney Maranhao (PRN-PE) [National Reconstruction Party, Pernambuco], Senator Henrique Almeida (PMDB-AP) [Brazilian Democratic Movement Party, Amapa], Senator Meira Filho (PP-DF) [PP, Federal District], and Senator Alexandre Costa (PFL-MA) [PFL, Maranhao]. The cover of the notebooks distributed by Costa, in addition to bearing his name, had the "Lobao Senator" logotype, which referred to former Maranhao Governor Edison Lobao's candidacy for the Senate.

Workers Party Military Policy Viewed

PY2009211394 Buenos Aires PAGINA/12 in Spanish 17 Sep 94 p 12

[Interview with Geraldo Lesbat Cavagnari Filho, director of the Center for Strategic Studies at the Brazilian State University of Campinas and drafter of the military program of the Brazilian Workers Party, PT, platform, by Gabriel Pasquini; place and date not given]

[Text] [Pasquini] What is the PT proposal for the Armed Forces?

[Cavagnari Filho] The proposal in the PT platform states that Brazil should establish the minimum conditions to defend its territory, by itself, and without depending on any world power.

We should invest in modernizing our Armed Forces. Invest in what? In equipment, because our present Armed Forces equipment is obsolete, finished. Second, we must have an autonomous defense capacity. We must be able to immediately react. We must create an immediate action force: A small, efficient force. If we want that kind of force we must introduce voluntary and professional military service because it is impossible to consider a force capable of immediate reaction without professional soldiers. We propose an optional military service, like the one proposed by Argentina today.

[Pasquini] But investing in the Armed Forces could be strongly criticized...

[Cavagnari Filho] We cannot significantly increase the funds assigned to the Armed Forces because we have other social priorities. To achieve a reasonable investment we would be forced to propose an Armed Forces reorganization, to deactivate military organizations that are no longer necessary, and to revise military objectives.

[Pasquini] What are the conflict contingencies contemplated in that reorganization?

[Cavagnari Filho] Brazil is in a privileged position over possible conflict situations. It has conflicts, but none justifies the use of force. We must prepare for the worst. Today the situation is one of total calm, but we do not know if it will be the same tomorrow. That concern is

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part of our new conception. The country cannot invest in defense what society cannot sustain.

[Pasquini] How are relations between the left and the Armed Forces, considering past confrontations?

[Cavagnari Filho] The question is very difficult because we are different countries or because our lefts are different. Today's Brazilian left acknowledges the need for the Armed Forces. I would go even further, the first proposal in Brazil's history for a government program that includes the topic of defense came from the left, from the PT. This indicates that the Brazilian left is aware of what the Armed Forces represent for the Brazilian state. This is why it has a program for modernizing the Armed Forces without relegating priorities in education, in the health sector... I believe that the same thing is happening in the other countries in South America. I do not believe the Argentine left is antimilitary. On the contrary, I believe they are aware that the Armed Forces must be maintained, that they are an institution of the state. They must not be used for party or political purposes.

[Pasquini] But is it the left or the Armed Forces that have changed?

[Cavagnari Filho] Both have changed. The Armed Forces now acknowledge that the country's security can be implemented in a democracy. The left acknowledges that a state cannot remain unarmed, that the state must be armed, and that the Armed Forces are necessary for the state.

[Pasquini] Have relations with the United States not changed also?

[Cavagnari Filho] Brazil does not reject the United States, nor does it reject it in the military sense. In this post cold war period Brazil understands it can adopt a non-aligned position. It understands that in view of its geopolitical and economic situation, and even its technological situation, it does not need to align itself with any power. Thus, it can maintain a more independent policy where the United States is concerned. But this does not mean it rejects the United States. On the contrary, it acknowledges it as a main partner in international policies, like Argentina.

[Pasquini] The Brazilian military denounced a U.S. conspiracy to take over the Amazon region...

[Cavagnari Filho] There is undoubtably a current within the military that believes Brazil is the victim of a world conspiracy, and that one of the aspects of this conspiracy is intervention in the Amazon region. I am not of the same line of thought. U.S. maneuvers do not mean it is interested in invading the Amazon region. The United States is a superpower and must be prepared to operate in any type of scenario, including the Amazon region. This does not mean it wants to invade or occupy the Amazon region. If the Amazon region is threatened, it is an internal threat, not an external threat. What kind of threat? Environmental problems, drug trafficking, depredation.

[Pasquini] Is the PT willing to maintain the nuclear program of the Brazilian military?

[Cavagnari Filho] The PT's proposal states that military programs based on sensitive technology must be concluded during the PT's government. These programs include an autonomous program for the development of nuclear technology, the Brazilian space mission, and an aeronautical program. I propose that these programs should be continued until their conclusion. The PT has not yet made a definite decision.

Poll Views Voters' Support for Lula, Cardoso

PY2009134494 Rio de Janeiro JORNAL DO BRASIL in Portuguese 17 Sep 94 p 1

[Text] A poll by the Vox Populi institute between 12 and 15 September shows that the two main presidential candidates are stabilizing their positions in the presidential race. PSDB [Brazilian Social Democracy Party] candidate Fernando Henrique Cardoso lost 1 point and is now supported by 41 percent of the voters, while [Workers Party, PT, candidate] Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva has 21 percent of voters. He also lost 1 point. If the elections were held today, Cardoso—with a 20-percent margin—would win in the first electoral round. He is 6 points above the sum of all other candidates.

Vox Populi states that PSDB candidate Marcello Alencar heads the race for Rio de Janeiro governor with 31 percent, followed by PDT [Democratic Labor Party] candidate Anthony Garotinho with 27 percent. The PSDB candidate would win the runoff election by 46 to 35 percent. PSD [Democratic Social Party] candidate for governor Newton Cruz is 1 point ahead of PT candidate Jorge Bittar.

Supreme Court Head Denies 'Crisis' Among Branches

PY2009162094 Brasilia Radio Nacional da Amazonia Network in Portuguese 1000 GMT 20 Sep 94

[Report by Salete Sobreira in Brasilia]

[Text] Federal Supreme Court, STF, Chairman Otavio Galloti yesterday denied any crisis among the government branches, adding that any impasse can be overcome by simply respecting the Constitution.

He said the misunderstandings among government branches this year do not indicate any crisis. He said the institutions are working normally and compliance with the Constitution is the solution to any impasse.

Galloti said the judicial branch should not criticize. He believes the executive and judicial branches are working conscientiously to solve national problems. He believes the lack of quorum in Congress to vote on provisional

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measures is understandable because this is a year of complex elections. Galloti is worried, however, over congressional proposals to establish external control on the judicial branch. This proposal was reissued when Congress became distressed over a decision by the Superior Electoral Court to cancel the candidacy of Senator Humberto Lucena.

The STF chairman understands that the control Congress wants to impose on the judicial branch is administrative and not with the purpose of reviewing court decisions. Justice Galloti said the independence of the judicial branch is an essential guarantee of the exercise of democracy in all countries.

Franco Accepts Energy Minister's Resignation

PY2009001394 Brasilia Voz do Brasil Network in Portuguese 2200 GMT 19 Sep 94

[Report by Arlete Milhomem from Planalto Palace]

[Text] After meeting with President Itamar Franco for a few hours, Mines and Energy Minister Alexis Stepanenko has just tendered his resignation.

In a letter addressed to the president, Stepanenko says that his resignation is irrevocable. The reason for his resignation is the disclosure of notes written by Stepanenko asking for the dedication of projects before the 3 October elections, and suggesting that President Franco and presidential candidate Fernando Henrique Cardoso attend the dedication of such projects.

Stepanenko adds that he would rather not give a detailed account in writing of the reasons for his resignation.

In his reply to Stepanenko, President Franco said he accepts with regret Stepanenko's resignation as mines and energy minister. Franco regards the resignation as a another proof of Stepanenko's high stature as a public servant, and of his solidarity with the policies of a friend.

Auditing Reveals Incorrect Coffee Stocks Figure

PY1709034594 Sao Paulo AGENCIA ESTADO in Portuguese 2038 GMT 16 Sep 94

[By Milton F. Da Rocha Filho]

[Text] Sao Paulo, 16 Sep (AE)—Industry, Commerce, and Tourism Minister Elcio Alvares has estimated that—contrary to what had been usually reported to the public—the true figure for Brazil's coffee stocks is 14 million and not 17 million bags. This information was revealed by an internal ministry auditing procedure, which is still under way and which will be over on 30 November. Another study shows that in December 1996 there will be a deficit of 11 million bags of coffee, taking into account frost, exports, and domestic consumption.

According to its own data, the ministry is perfectly aware that next season's coffee yields will drop by an average of at least 30 percent because of the frost that occurred between the end of June and the beginning of July in the main Brazilian coffee producing areas. According to a ministry source, the auditing procedure, which is being performed by the Swiss SGS company, may invalidate a stock figure that was never true. According to the minister's own personal estimates, over the past four years the alleged 17 million bags of coffee served only to confuse local producers and the international market.

All this concern about the stocks, the ministry source said, stems from the fact that Brazil wants to have a transparent position within the new World Coffee Organization, in which it is one of the leading coffee producing and supplying countries. The auditing procedure became necessary with this responsible position, the source said. Over the next few days, Minister Elcio Alvares will officially report the real figures with regard to Brazilian coffee stocks.

Country To Limit 1995 Tin Exports to 20,000 Tonnes

PY2109034194 Sao Paulo AGENCIA ESTADO in Portuguese 2060 GMT 20 Sep 94

[Text] Brasilia, 20 Sep (AE)—Brazil today agreed to limit its tin export quota for 1995 to 20,000 tonnes provided that the member countries of the Tin-Producing Countries Association (ATPC) strictly observe their export quotas. Brazil, which is taking part in the ATPC as a privileged observer, has expressed interest in joining it under certain conditions. Brazil's main condition is that all ATPC members should make a dedicated effort to reduce world tin stocks and to promote a recovery of tin prices on the international market. The ATPC meeting concluded today in Bangkok (capital of Thailand) in an atmosphere of an association of producers, if its member countries comply with its global policy," a diplomat said. [quotation mark and sentence as received] Although not a full member of the ATPC, Brazil has in practice followed the ATPC guidelines.

With Brazil joining it, the ATPC would control nearly 70 percent of the world's tin production. The problem is that some ATPC member countries fail to comply with their export quotas, thus provoking a drop of tin prices on the market. China's quota for this year was 20,000 tonnes, but China has exported more than 24,000 tonnes during the first half of the year alone. To sidestep the ATPC policy, China exports tin through Vietnam which, despite not having tin ore deposits, is an ATCP observer. The world's surplus tin stock is estimated at 48,000 tonnes.

Chile

Officials 'Satisfied' Over Haitian Solution

PY2009140594 Santiago Television Nacional de Chile Imagen Internacional in Spanish 1100 GMT 20 Sep 94

[Excerpts] After watching a parade by La Moneda Palace guards, President Frei said he was happy and proud of what he had just seen.

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[Begin Frei recording] It was impeccable. It was also much shorter than other years. This shows the degree of professionalism of our Armed Forces that are trained for any national emergency but, basically, strive for peace which is what we all desire. I wish to congratulate all the units, officers, noncommissioned officers, and members of the Armed Forces on their day. We are very happy to have participated in this celebration. We are also very happy to have returned from the O'Higgins Park in a carriage and enjoyed the warmth of many people who greeted us on our way. [end recording]

President Frei voiced his satisfaction over the peaceful outcome to the Haitian crisis.

Other Chilean authorities also voiced their opinion on the negotiated intervention of U.S. troops in Haiti.

[Begin recording] [Defense Minister Edumundo Perez Yoma] This is a typical case of diplomacy endorsed by force.

[Public Works Minister Ricardo Lagos] It is an unusual case; an agreed invasion. Following the understanding reached yesterday, it was agreed that U.S. military forces would start an occupation as of today with the approval, so as to speak, of the de facto military authorities. We hope everything will develop peacefully, that President Aristides will return to power, and that human rights will be respected there as in any other country.

[Foreign Minister Carlos Figueroa] This move will allow the return of the president-elect. The Haitian people democratically elected their president. He will return to power, there will be a multinational force to help pacify the country and, as you know, the agreement provides for the implementation of an amnesty law. The military will hand over in 30 days. [end recording]

Figueroa Becomes Interior Minister in Cabinet Reshuffle

PY2009191194 Santiago Television Nacional de Chile Imagen Internacional in Spanish 1800 GMT 20 Sep 94

[Report by Alejandro Guillen from La Moneda Palace]

[Excerpts] [Passage omitted] Today was a hectic day at Government House as result of a cabinet change announced last night and the announcement of the new men who will work close to President Frei.

President Frei arrived at Government House a little before 0900 this morning, earlier than usual. He first spoke with the outgoing ministers, then with the new ones, and then with the presidents of the parties members of the Coalition of Parties for Democracy. It was then announced that the swearing in ceremony for the new ministers would take place at 1300. It took place without any delay. [passage omitted]

Six months after coming to power, President Eduardo Frei asked his cabinet for freedom of action to make some adjustments. This morning he accepted the resignation of Interior Minister German Correa, Government Secretary General Victor Manuel Rebolledo, Education Minister Ernesto Schiefelbein, and Foreign Minister Carlos Figueroa.

The new ministers were sworn in soon after. Carlos Figueroa becomes interior minister; Jose Joaquin Brunner becomes the government secretary general; Jose Miguel Insulza becomes the foreign minister; and Sergio Molina becomes the education minister. Molina will be sworn within a few days because he is currently abroad.

President Frei praised the job done by the outgoing ministers and said that the government will now begin a new stage:

[Begin Frei recording] The new stage we are beginning seeks to quickly accomplish the priorities I mentioned on 21 May and which were recently clarified. We want to concentrate on education, infrastructure, and productive challenges. This requires a great political and social capability, and brisk decisionmaking in all administrative fields. This must be expressed in an efficient and expeditious way. [end recording] [passage omitted]

Some under secretaries were also changed. Former Foreign Secretary Jose Miguel Insulza was promoted to foreign minister, and so the new foreign secretary will be Mariano Fernandez, who is currently on a diplomatic mission abroad.

The education and regional development under secretaries were also changed. The new education secretary will be Jaime Perez de Arce, and the new regional development secretary will be Marcelo Schilling. This is a kind of compensation for the Socialists following the removal of German Correa. [passage omitted]

Pinochet Outlines Project To Streamline Army

PY2009194694 Santiago EL MERCURIO in Spanish 29 Aug 94 p C6

[Excerpts] On 19 August, General Augusto Pinochet, the Army commander in chief, submitted the general guidelines of the "Alcazar" project, geared to streamlining the Army and accommodating it to the country's present demands and the demands it will face before the year 2010.

Having outlined some measures to increase the Army's contribution to national development, Gen. Pinochet reiterated that the specific role for which the Army has been designed and established, namely, national defense, should be maintained and enhanced. [passage omitted]

One of the most sensitive areas of the Army's modernization plans, due to its cost, is the purchase of new military hardware to replace items that are obsolete.

With regard to materiel like pistols, rifles, machine-guns, grenades, and ammunition, the Army already has state-of-the-art equipment, all made in Chile.

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The same holds true for artillery materiel which, albeit not abundant, meets the minimum defense needs and is supported by a considerable number of antitank and anti-aircraft rockets.

The most difficult point to solve is the issue of armored equipment. In the case of the Chilean Army, there are approximately 350 tanks of all types and 500 light armored vehicles.

Regarding the light armored vehicles, the new amphibious Mowak vehicles will be slowly incorporated. They are manufactured in Chile and they have shown that they can adapt very well to our type of terrain; therefore, there should not be any type of difficulty with these vehicles.

Regarding tanks, the AMX-30 and AMX-13, which are the Army's most up to date tanks, will be maintained, but in the short term a superior type of tank will have to be incorporated to replace the upgraded but very old Sherman M-51 tanks.

The idea of receiving tanks no longer in use in Europe emerged some months ago together with the possibility of co-manufacturing tanks with a former East European country.

Moreover, the final objective of the Army's modernization is not one of creating a huge war machine, but rather maintaining the current levels of mobilization and weaponry with improvements that are considered the minimum necessary for the country's security.

The Chilean Army currently has 55,000 men and an immediate reserve of 100,000, while Argentina can deploy 40,000 soldiers (with a 250,000-man reserve), Peru has a 75,000-man Army (with 188,000 in the reserves), and Bolivia maintains an Army of approximately 25,000 men.

Government Revives Rural Development Commission

PY1909130894 Santiago EL MERCURIO in Spanish 1 Sep 94 p C3

[Excerpt] The Inter-Ministerial Commission for Rural Development, which coordinates various sectorial policies, was reactivated yesterday. The commission is made up of 10 ministers and two under secretaries linked to the socioeconomic areas.

The commission, which advises the president, will deal with programs for forestry, mining, and fishing, sectors that are far behind in infrastructure and education.

In a ceremony held yesterday in La Moneda Palace, President Eduardo Frei pointed out the need to support overall rural development in order for this sector to join the country's progress of the last few years.

He said: "We believe this is important for the development of many regions and for improving the standard of living of people who are more seriously affected by poverty."

The commission is comprised of the Ministries of Agriculture, Public Works, Mining, Education, Health, Housing, Transportation, Planning, National Assets, and the Sernam [National Women's Secretariat], and the under secretaries of regional development, and fishing. Some members of the commission already gave guidelines of the programs to be carried out. [passage omitted]

Colombia

Paramilitary Group Requests Government Talks

PA2009182794 Santa Fe de Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 1 in Spanish 1730 GMT 19 Sep 94

[From the "National Newscast"]

[Text] Fidel Castano wants to negotiate with the government. The well-known leader of the paramilitary groups has sent a letter to Government Minister Horacio Serpa Uribe in which he voices his desire to join the negotiations process proposed by the government to rebel groups.

Just a few minutes ago, we learned of the letter sent by Castano to Minister Serpa Uribe. In the eight-point letter, the alleged paramilitary leader points out that his groups should be taken into consideration in the government's negotiations with the guerrillas. Castano added they should not be ignored in this armed conflict, pointing out that the voices of paramilitary and self-defense groups have never been heard.

In his letter, Fidel Castano emphasized that he has no plans to hinder negotiations between the national government and rebel groups.

The national government will announce within the next few hours its position on Fidel Castano's stand.

Liberal Party Adopts Code of Ethics

94CA0168A Santa Fe de Bogota EL TIEMPO in Spanish 19 Aug 94 p 8A

[Text] Yesterday the Liberal Party definitively launched a process aimed at modernizing, purging, and strengthening the party.

The point of departure was the adoption of a Code of Ethics, the first of its kind to be developed by a political organization in this country.

The code provides strict guidelines on disqualifications and conflicts of interest, which its authors hope will prevent persons who face criminal charges or disciplinary action from becoming party leaders or holding public office or popularly elected positions while representing the party.

In the resolution implementing the new regulations, the Liberal leadership stated that they meet the objectives

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laid out by Luis Carlos Galan when he advocated modernizing the Liberal Party and promoting high moral standards.

The Code of Ethics establishes an Ethics Oversight Council, creates the office of Party Inspector (which will be held by Carlos Lemos), and institutes an Office of Citizen Participation to allow the community to play an effective role in the process.

It states that anyone who has ever been convicted and sentenced by a court to a prison term, unless it was for a political crime, is ineligible to represent the Liberal Party in any public office.

Also ineligible are persons who have been charged with offenses or have been removed from public office or lost their investiture in Congress as a disciplinary measure.

The code also states that close relatives of the president of the Republic, the vice president, governors, and mayors in the Liberal Party may not be awarded contracts for public works projects, benefit from public contracts for providing services, be given radio or television space, or in general, enter into any contract with the government, unless the contract arises out of a traditional, publicly recognized activity that is consistent with their job history.

It indicates that members of the legislature, deputies, and council members who have been elected with the backing of the Liberal Party and have benefited from its programs must pledge to support the development of the proposals put forth by the party's mayoral, gubernatorial, and presidential candidates. If they fail to do so, they may be subject to penalties imposed by the Ethics Oversight Council, including expulsion from the party.

The code establishes a rigorous framework of financial auditing, and authorizes the inspector to reject any donations he deems to be of dubious provenance.

It requires Liberal Party candidates for all elective offices to pledge absolute loyalty to campaign platforms.

The code was drafted by the Committee for the Renewal of the Liberal Party, which was founded by Ernesto and Humberto De la Calle, now president and vice president, before they took office. Committee members are Ingrid Betancourt Pulecio, Cecilia Balcazar, Jose Marino Mejia, and Horacio Duque.

Yesterday was the effective date of the Code of Ethics, which governs all Liberal candidates in the 30 October elections.

Paraguay

Agreement Signed With European Investment Bank

PY2009162594 Asuncion NOTICIAS in Spanish 20 Sep 94 p 23

[Text] A financial cooperation agreement was signed yesterday in Luxembourg between Paraguay and the European Investment Bank (EIB) to finance development projects.

The negotiations began with a visit by Paraguayan President Juan Carlos Wasmosy to the EU [European Union] institutions in April.

Diplomatic sources pointed out that the agreement makes our country eligible for finance for industrial infrastructure and development projects, among others.

The framework agreement was signed by Paraguayan Ambassador to the EU Alfredo Canete and EIB directors Bruno Eynard and Michel Deleau.

Luxembourg Prime Minister Jacques Santer, the ingoing European Commission president, met yesterday with Mercosur [Common Market of the South] ambassadors who handed him a declaration expressing the Mercosur's wish to enhance commercial ties with the EU.

In the declaration, the Mercosur country presidents emphasize "the firm desire of their democracies to increase their participation in international trade trends, which represents one of the pillars of this expanded South American economic unit."

The Mercosur country presidents express their desire "to use all relationships or associations to help the gradual deregulation of world trade."

They emphasize "the wish to exploit all alternatives to enhance their economic and commercial ties with the EU, assuring that this will help the progress and well-being of their nations."

Official sources reported yesterday that the heads of state of Argentina, Brazil, Paraguay, and Uruguay will meet on 17 December in the Brazilian city of Ouro Preto. The four presidents will review the development of the Mercosur integration mechanism, which was established in 1991 through the Asuncion Treaty.

The presidents will determine the number and scope of the first community institutions which will probably be common-law courts and a coordination secretariat.

The meeting will be held shortly before the almost total opening of a free trade zone within the four countries, following a gradual removal of tariff barriers.

Peru

Relations With Chile on 'Excellent' Level

PY2109024794 Lima EL PERUANO in Spanish 2 Sep 94 p A3

[Text] Eduardo Ponce Vivanco, deputy foreign minister for international policy, stated yesterday that the withdrawal of the Lima Convention from Congress does not represent any risk to current bilateral relations between Peru and Chile, due to the excellent level on which this process is being developed.

He said that the decision adopted by the executive branch is a procedural step which seeks consensus on a matter of vital importance for the country, "a consensus

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achieved within a context of satisfactory and very intense relations with the government of Chile."

Concerning the forthcoming meeting of the presidents of Bolivia, Paraguay, and Peru to firm up the implementation of the bioceanic corridor for exports, he said that it is a very important integration exercise which opens up new development possibilities for South America.

Moreover, Ponce Vivanco termed positive the U.S. Government decision to be flexible about warnings to U.S. tourists who can now travel to Peru without risk since terrorist violence has dropped considerably.

Constituent Congress Issues Electoral Law Amendments

PY1909213294 Lima EL PERUANO (LEGAL SUPPLEMENT) in Spanish 26 Aug 94 p 125481

[Law No. 26343, modifying Decree Law No. 14250, approved by Law No. 26337]

[Text] Law No. 26343

The president of the Republic
Whereas:
The Democratic Constituent Congress
Issues the following Law:

Article 1. The last paragraph of Article No. 44 of the Single Integrated Text of Decree Law No. 14250, approved by Law No. 26337, is hereby replaced by the following text:

"Should the regular and alternate members of the voting station fail to appear, the president of the station identified with the following number will designate their replacements. For this purpose he will choose three constituents present at the station so that it may start operating at 0830. Members of the security forces may be requested to give a hand if necessary. Article No. 35 of this law must be applied whenever necessary."

Article 2. The first paragraph of Article 24 of the Single Integrated Text of Decree Law No. 14250, approved by Law No. 26337, is hereby replaced by the following text:

"During the first half of the month of September of the year before the elections are held, each Supreme Court of Justice, during a plenary session, will draft a list of 15 citizens who reside in the capital of the province, registered with the corresponding Electoral Registry Office, who meet the necessary requirements to become a legislator, elected from the most educated constituents according to Article 35."

Article 3. The first paragraph of Article 38 of the Single Integrated Text of Decree Law No. 14250, approved by Law No. 26337, is hereby replaced by the following text:

"The numbering of the voting stations and the designation of their members, in compliance with Article 35, will be carried out in a simultaneous act by Provincial Electoral Courts up to 90 days before the date set for the elections, and their membership will be disclosed the following day through posters that will be placed in the usual public sites, buildings, and public offices, and will also be distributed to those designated by the Provincial Electoral Court. This publication and distribution of posters as instructed has the purpose of allowing any citizen registered with the Electoral Registry Office or those designated to make the pertinent objections within six days after the publication is made."

Article 4. Article 61 of the Single Integrated Text of Decree Law No. 14250, approved by Law No. 26337, is hereby replaced by the following text:

"Alliances for electoral purposes established between political parties or independent groups, or between one and the other, registered in compliance with the terms of this title, will request their registration with the national Electoral Court, within the term of 180 days before the date set for the elections, as long as the request is made jointly by the leaderships of the political parties or independent groups that belong to the alliances."

The president of the Republic is hereby notified of these amendments for their corresponding promulgation.
Issued in Lima on 25 August 1994.
Jaime Yoshiyama, president of the Democratic Constituent Congress
Carlos Torres y Torres Lara, first vice president of the Democratic Constituent Congress
To the Constitutional president of the Republic
I hereby order their publication and realization
Issued at Government House, in Lima, on 25 August 1994.
Alberto Fujimori Fujimori, constitutional president of the Republic
Fernando Vega Santa Gadea, justice minister

Perez de Cuellar on Continuing Economic Policy

PY2109004194 Lima EL COMERCIO in Spanish 2 Sep 94 p A5

[By special correspondent Jorge Saldana Ramirez]

[Text] Arequipa, 1 Sep—Although he has not yet decided whether he will run for the presidency of the Republic, former UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar stated last night in Arequipa that if he were elected president of the Republic, he would continue the same macroeconomic policy of the current government, but would introduce some cautious corrections, especially concerning social support to the poorest sectors.

He made these remarks during a working meeting with members of the Arequipa Chamber of Commerce and Industry, the president of which is Andres Von Wedeneyer. Perez de Cuellar denied that he is a leftist, arguing that the statist policy has experienced categorical failure throughout the world, except for Cuba and North Korea.

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But when he was asked later about some of his advisers who are linked to leftist organizations, he said that "considering the country's current situation we cannot ask where do these people come from or to what party do they belong."

He added: "Anyone who is concerned about the country's development should be of interest to us, to me, or to any political candidate. It is a gross mistake to divide Peruvians into rightists and leftists. I am not a leftist, but I do have social feelings."

He recalled that when Alberto Fujimori was elected president of the Republic in 1990, he was the one who introduced him to the powerful world financial banks.

"I have suggested the establishment of an emergency social plan to make less painful the impact of the developing economic adjustment," he said.

Uruguay

Abreu: Agreement on Haiti To Enhance Miami Summit

PY2109004494 Madrid EFE in Spanish 2211 GMT 20 Sep 94

[Text] Montevideo, 20 Sep (EFE)—Uruguayan Foreign Minister Sergio Abreu said today that the agreement between U.S. officials and the military junta ruling Haiti, which aims at restoring democracy in that country, "will permit a better Miami hemispheric summit."

The minister said: "The OAS Council of Ministers presided over by the Bolivian foreign minister is closely following the evolution of the process toward democracy in Haiti."

"We think the OAS was the natural mechanism for trying to solve the Haitian problem. It is clear that the agreement between the United States and the military junta does not satisfy many people, among them, Haiti's elected President Jean-Bertrand Aristide and former Argentine Foreign Minister Dante Caputo who resigned his post as OAS negotiator," Abreu said.

"However, the agreement will give a chance to the upcoming Americas summit to analyze developments in Haiti and propose possible solutions," Abreu added.

U.S. President Bill Clinton convened a hemispheric summit for December in Miami, but its success was threatened by the possible U.S. armed invasion of Haiti, which is opposed by most countries in the continent.

"Uruguay is by tradition, conviction, and agreement contrary to any armed intervention. Uruguay is a defender of peoples' self-determination," the foreign minister said, pointing out "the need to evaluate the peaceful invasion of U.S. troops in Haiti with regard to international laws." [Montevideo Radio El Espectador Network in Spanish at 0900 GMT on 20 Sep 94 adds: The national government supports the solution to the Haitian situation that has been achieved by the United States.]

U.S. Military 'Invasion' of Haiti 'Rejected'

PY2009175394 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1631 GMT 20 Sep 94

[Text] Montevideo, 20 Sep (TELAM-SNI)—Foreign Minister Sergio Abreu said today that Uruguay has rejected the U.S. military intervention in Haiti because it is a dangerous precedent for international law.

Abreu returned from Brazil where he met with his Brazilian colleague Celso Amorim in the city of Pelotas. He said: "By tradition and conviction, and because it is a small country, Uruguay is a staunch defender of the principle of total nonintervention."

The minister acknowledged that "the U.S. military intervention in Haiti was carried out peacefully and was supported by a Security Council resolution, but Uruguay does not share this position."

He added: "Haiti has been governed by a condemnable dictatorship, but international security and peace were not at stake, as stated at the United Nations."

Abreu stressed: "We cannot accept just any incident as an excuse to violate the principle of nonintervention in the hemisphere."

He added: "Uruguay's position is one of peaceful negotiations. As stated during the recent Rio Group meeting, some avenues remained unexhausted."

"We must not turn our backs on reality, which must be accompanied by the principles of international law," the Uruguayan foreign minister stressed.

Abreu said: "Uruguay will support the effort of international cooperation in order to improve the dramatic and critical situation of the Haitians."

Venezuela

Congress Opposes U.S. Moves in Haiti

PA2109021694 Caracas Union Radio Network in Spanish 2200 GMT 20 Sep 94

[Telephone interview with Deputy Jose Rodriguez Iturbe, chairman of the Chamber of Deputies Foreign Policy Committee, by "Union Radio News" announcer Mackie Arenas in Caracas—live]

[Text] [Arenas] We have been reading different cables we are receiving on the situation in Haiti. In this respect, we believe it would be interesting if you could provide an assessment of the latest developments, because we just learned that Congress has passed a resolution in which you had a great deal of influence, considering it was

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based on your initiative. According to information we have received, this resolution condemns U.S. intervention in Haiti.

We have been receiving reports that U.S. troops have been enthusiastically received by a large segment of the Haitian population—evidently not the political sectors, but by the average citizens. We have even read statements by an anonymous soldier who said Haitian troops do not endorse the agreement or condone the presence of foreign soldiers in Haiti, but at least the agreement allows them to remain alive. We would appreciate if you could illustrate how we should assess these developments.

[Rodriguez] I am currently speaking to you from the offices of the Chamber of Deputies Foreign Policy Committee, where a few minutes ago we ended a rather long discussion to which we had summoned Foreign Minister Miguel Angel Burelli. During the discussion, one of the issues covered, the most politically sensitive issue in my opinion, was the Haitian invasion.

The problem does not lie in how U.S. occupation forces are received by the Haitian people, but in how the people must receive them, and why they are doing it. It is very sad. Anyone arriving with food in a country in which most of the population is starving will be received with open arms. If the U.S. troops were to enter Havana today, they would also be received with open arms. In my opinion, the problem lies in that the United States has opted for a political action—one that is being conducted in a way that transgresses the desires of the international community. It even exceeds hemispheric standards of decency.

It is being said that the United States was empowered with a mandate by the United Nations. Well, today in the press, in addition to the statements by the unidentified Haitian soldier, we have also seen statements by someone who did indeed decide to identify himself. I am referring to former Foreign Minister Dante Caputo, who was commissioned by UN Secretary General Butrus Butrus-Ghali and who decided to resign as mediator in the Haitian crisis. He resigned from a post in which he had been serving for several years, practically since 1991. He resigned after the UN Security Council, the secretary general, and he as mediator were completely left out of the agreement. The international community was not surprised by his decision; it was something that had been expected.

The mission that visited Haiti was headed by former President Jimmy Carter, and it also included some well-known public officials such as Colin Powell, former national security adviser [as heard] and former chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff. You should recall that he held this high military position during the Gulf War's Operation Desert Shield. Without any doubt, Colin Powell knows more about foreign policy than President Clinton.

I would have to say that what is really despicable about all of this—and here, one has to really make an effort not to react emotionally to what the gringos have done—is that the invasion of Haiti has no humanitarian intentions whatsoever. Even the nonviolent manner in which they invaded proves that diplomatic efforts begun by Venezuela—diplomatic efforts the United States caused to fail—would have had a more fitting outcome for Haiti's self-esteem. The only justification for this invasion is the midterm elections in the United States.

[Arena] It has always been said that this was the real justification for this action. On the other hand....

[Rodriguez, interrupting] Of course.

[Arenas, continues] On the other hand, someone who is very pleased is OAS Secretary General Cesar Gaviria.

[Rodriguez] Precisely. We discussed this point here today in Congress after summoning the foreign minister. Several deputies referred to Mr. Gaviria's recent OAS address. All of us are aware that he got the OAS position as a result of the shameless lobbying by Mr. Watson, assistant secretary for inter-American affairs.

Now it seems Mr. Gaviria will have to take some kind of action. Nevertheless, he does not appear to want to act. On the contrary, all he has said up until now sounds somewhat regrettable. In the end, what is the secretary general's duty?

No matter what, we can say this: People who in no way are rash Latins—people such as Henry Kissinger, former secretary of state—have condemned the invasion after pointing out that they do not see any national interest that might justify such a move.

[Arenas] Well, one might also say that because Mr. Kissinger has always been linked to the Republicans, this is one way to counter President Clinton, who is a Democrat.

[Rodriguez] Mr. Kissinger has always been linked to U.S. foreign policy, and what he has clearly said is that if he saw a national interest involved, he would support this deployment. He has said, moreover, that he sees no support for the argument that the Cedras regime or any events in Haiti could pose a risk to U.S. national interests. There is also Mr. Bush, of whom one can say the same: He, too, is a Republican who has criticized the invasion. There is also Ramsey Clark, who this afternoon appears in the press criticizing this move—and here you have a former attorney general, and, I might add, an active Democrat who supports human rights—saying that, in his opinion, what has occurred is a true aberration.

The truth is that Mr. Clinton was coming out very poorly in the polls. At the beginning of the year—and our Foreign Ministry can attest to this—the U.S. State Department's policy was to pressure Latin American foreign ministries to open the way for a political solution

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to the crisis in Haiti that would exclude Mr. Jean-Bertrand Aristide. Well, because of domestic political pressure, after the so-called Black Caucus got together in Congress, the State Department's position began to vacillate radically because of pressure from domestic political lobbying.

[Arena] Now, Dr. Rodriguez, you are a very sharp analyst of all these matters because you closely follow....

[Rodriguez, interrupting] [Words indistinct] to decide on sovereignty; respect of sovereignty or not, in terms of U.S. domestic public opinion poll results.

[Arenas] Okay. That is, that is....

[Rodriguez, interrupting] That is totally hideous, begging Mr. Clinton's pardon.

[Arena] It is true that....

[Rodriguez, interrupting] This is impossible. Here is someone who was a draft dodger in his country during the Vietnam war. The first irony was when Mr. Clinton, who never wore a uniform, had to chair the 50th anniversary celebration of the greatest military deployment in modern history, the Normandy invasion. Now the second irony is that the largest superpower in the world has gone so far as to deploy a nuclear aircraft carrier off the coasts of the poorest, most destitute nation in the hemisphere. This is one of the most impoverished nations in the entire world.

[Arenas] I wanted to present this problem to you. Unfortunately, we only have little time left, and, indeed, this is very interesting. When one sees a Latin American nation, a brotherly nation—take Cuba, for example—being subjected to the same things as Haiti—a nation in which there were flagrant and systematic abuses of human rights—when you see a nation such as this subjected to a punitive mechanism...[pauses] even a puppet president appointed by the junta, many mechanisms....

[Rodriguez, interrupting] Mr. Castro has abused human rights much more than what has occurred in Haiti.

[Arenas] That is true, but at any rate, it is a dictatorship; it is a cruel regime.

[Rodriguez, interrupting] [Words indistinct] Castro is the dictator in Latin America.

[Arena] Of course. It is regrettable, because one might say, tomorrow this could happen to us. Nevertheless, it is very easy to condemn from here.

[Rodriguez] [Words indistinct] a pragmatic agreement, based on domestic public opinion. As soon as they sent Ricardo Alarcon de Quesada to New York—and they did this because he knows them; he was foreign minister; he was ambassador to the United Nations—the minute they sent him to negotiate the Cuban rafters problem, because this put pressure on their domestic policy, they reached a serious agreement. Here, they established a quota that covered the rafters who had already reached their shores or that currently are being housed at Guantanamo, while the Cuban Government made a commitment not to allow any more rafters to leave.

[Arenas] Yes, Yes, of course.

[Rodriguez] This pragmatism—not militarism, mind you—also came in response to domestic policy problems. What is critical here is that we are subordinating the destiny of millions of people in Latin America, or, in the case of Cuba or in the case of Haiti....

[Arenas, interrupting] Now, look here, the alternative....

[Rodriguez, interrupting] Yes, they are subordinating these people to the goodwill of those who are reacting to opinion polls in the United States, or whenever congressional elections draw near.

[Arenas] I want to ask you this next question point blank in an effort to help the people understand this analysis. Faced with the violations of human rights, whether in Cuba or in Haiti, no matter where—say, in any country suffering from hunger, subjected to the power of the gun, or that has the military jackboot at its throat—it is very difficult to think they could overcome such a situation by themselves. Now, the option left to other Latin American nations is to condemn everything that will lead up to such a situation, or is it...[pauses] What is the option in Haiti?

[Rodriguez] On many occasions, we in Congress have condemned the Cuban regime. The other day, we unanimously approved a resolution on the rafters crisis. However, it contains the demand for political opening in Cuba, and, of course, when it comes to condemning Mr. Castro, we will do so with all of our might whenever necessary.

This hits America's respectable and civilized conscience like a ton of bricks—that a man such as Mr. Castro can know his adversary so well that he can put him in check, even though he is submitting his people to slow death by hunger. This is what generated the rafter phenomena. With regard to Cuba and Castro, I am very clear, as is the majority of our democratic national representation.

In terms of the Haitian issue, I believe a joint action by the international community would have been much more respectable and logical. I believe that after we demand the withdrawal of the invading gringo troops, what should follow is the presence of the blue helmets. In other words, the situation cannot continue as it is, and they cannot leave whenever they wish; now they are saying February 1976 [year as heard].

Simply put, they cannot simply decide to do as they please, and much less do so because of upcoming U.S. elections, when the decision affects the fate of the Latin American nations. We, the Foreign Policy Committee, told the foreign minister that three nations in particular have a more urgent responsibility. These are the three

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nations that since the beginning of the crisis in 1991 the UN secretary general has called Friends of Haiti. These are the nations that, because of their proximity, their history, and even in some cases their culture and political ties, have special ties to the Haitian reality.

These three countries are France, Canada, and Venezuela. Two of them are part of the OAS. I believe that under circumstances such as these, these countries cannot passively accept Mr. Gaviria's rhetoric. I am not going to describe this rhetoric, because the adjectives I would use now would be too strong. Mr. Gaviria is performing poorly in his first action as secretary general of the OAS.

This situation has created great doubts concerning the way in which the UN Security Council is going to be used. The gringos think they have carte blanche to do as they please. In the past, they tried to act more decently and to at least maintain appearances.

I do not know whether this will improve Clinton's popularity. I do not know whether this is going to benefit the Democratic candidates who apparently were trying to portray themselves as Republicans while not mentioning Clinton in their campaigns because this was harming them.

God willing, I hope this gentleman does not produce more tragedies than those he has already created and apparently is prepared to create because of his poor knowledge and the poor way in which he directs the international policy of the world's largest superpower.

Here, I want to say something: Neither the chamber nor I are bitter anti-North Americans. We do not systematically confront the United States. We deeply respect the U.S. people, but we are very critical of a man who is ruining things. When the world thought a new era of peace, sincere cooperation, and so on was emerging in the world, here comes this pathetic gentleman from Arkansas.

A columnist from EL UNIVERSAL who is a friend of mine some days ago established a comparison between this man and President Caldera. I do not know whether he was trying to be funny or just trying to push his imagination. He compared Arkansas to Yaracuy and Caldera to Clinton. He even referred to some Christian practices of President Clinton I did not know about.

Anyway, this Mr. Clinton has emerged, and his two priorities, to the surprise of the entire world, have been the inclusion of homosexuals in the Army and the international propagation of abortion. I think he suffered a tremendous defeat in Cairo. I think he may be trying to balance his defeat in Cairo by using a nuclear aircraft carrier and an extravagant display of military technology to crush the poorest, most miserable, and most backward country on the continent and, perhaps, in the world.

[Arenas] Thank you, Dr. Rodriguez, for talking to us. We now clearly understand the position of Congress. I think you have reported it in an unequivocal fashion. The situation resulting from the arrival of U.S. troops in Haiti has been unanimously rejected by Congress.

Roundup of Economic Developments

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[Editorial Report] The following is a compilation of reports on economic developments in Venezuela monitored through 20 September.

Erwin Arrieta, minister of energy and mines, has reported Venezuela is currently meeting its oil production quota established by OPEC. He reported the country currently produces 2,359,000 barrels per day (bpd). However, other observers reported that Venezuela has moved [mobilizo] up to 400,000 bpd in excess of its established quota, as a result of the oil tanker movement agreement. The minister concluded that Venezuela will appeal before the GATT the U.S. Chamber vote vetoing refined Venezuela gasoline. (Caracas EL NACIONAL in Spanish 15 Sep 94 p E-9)

The Central Bank of Venezuela has reportedly sold the largest amount of zero coupon bonds so far this year. At the 14 September auction, 79.999 billion bolivares worth of zero coupon bonds were sold. The zero coupon bonds are monetary policy instruments the Central Bank of Venezuela uses to reduce the excess liquidity and, therefore, inflation. (Caracas Union Radio Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 15 Sep 94)

A Caracas-datelined report cites Venezuelan Deputy Planning Minister Rafael McQuhae as saying the downfall in the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) slowed down in the second quarter of 1994, going from 4.8 percent to 2.8 percent. McQuhae attributed this decline in GDP reduction to the growth in the petroleum sector, which partly made up for the recession in other production sectors, including construction. The official reported Venezuelan international cash reserves fell from $12 to $10 billion, following the foreign exchange control measures decreed last July. (Paris AFP in Spanish 1734 GMT 15 Sep 94)

According to former presidential candidate Oswaldo Alvarez Paz, the macroeconomic economic stabilization plan cannot function under the present foreign exchange controls. Alvarez Paz asserted that as long as controls on foreign exchange remain, there will not be national or international investments. He concluded contrary to what the government said, the economic stabilization plan has not been well-received overseas. (Caracas Union Radio Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 16 Sep 94)

The IDB (Inter-American Development Bank) has granted a $700-million credit to CADAFE (Electrical Administration and Development Corporation). The credit will be made effective in seven years starting in 1995, when the IDB will deliver the first $250 million to

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CADAFE. CADAFE president said the resources will be used to develop the national energy distribution system. (Caracas Union Radio Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 16 Sep 94)

A report datelined Caracas notes the creation of Sucre Air Line with Venezuelan and Japanese capital. According to the report, Sucre State Governor Ramon Martinez made the aforementioned announcement, adding the new airline will make domestic flights using six planes with a capacity for 80 people. (Paris AFP in Spanish 1722 GMT 16 Sep 94)

The industrial sector has rejected a middle- or short-term increase in gasoline prices. Despite the fact FEDEINDUSTRIAS (Federation of Industries) praised the Economic Plan, Venezuelan industrialists rejected a projected increase in gasoline prices. FEDEINDUSTRIAS president Alexis Delgado called for the conversion of gasoline vehicles to gas vehicles. He concluded the projected gas increase may bring about further economic problems for low-income sectors. (Caracas Union Radio Network in Spanish 2200 GMT 16 Sep 94)

Up until August, Excise Tax collections generated 142 billion bolivares in revenues for the Venezuelan State Treasury, and it is expected collections will total 230 billion bolivares by the end of the year. In 1993, nonoil revenues accounted for 6 percent of the GDP, totaling approximately 180 billion bolivares. The executive hopes to collect 386 billion nonoil bolivares in 1995. A Tax Administration official concluded nonoil revenues totaled 574 billion bolivares for the first semester of 1994. (Caracas EL GLOBO in Spanish 17 Sep 94 p 9)

Venezuela has lost $100 million worth of credits from the IDB to refinance the small- and medium-sized industry, Social Programs Minister Pompeyo Marquez has reported. This credit was granted by the IDB in 1992 and was lost because, according to Marquez, the Venezuelan Government did not complete the appropriate paperwork in time. The minister concluded Venezuela is the only country paying about 850 million bolivares for assistance programs from multilateral organizations it is not using. (Caracas Union Radio Network in Spanish 2200 GMT 18 Sep 94)

The International Netherlands Bank has become the first bank outside of the South American continent since 1973 to receive a commercial license to operate in the country. The Netherlands Bank hopes to open its Caracas branch in the first quarter of 1995 with a staff of 40 people. (Caracas Union Radio Network in Spanish 2200 GMT 18 Sep 94)

According to an economic report from Germany, last year Venezuelan exports totaled over $14 billion, while imports totaled $11 billion. This shows Venezuela obtained a surplus in the country's commercial balance. (Caracas Union Radio Network in Spanish 2200 GMT 18 Sep 94)

Venezuela has become the largest exporting country in the sub-Andean region, as reported by the figures of the Cartagena Agreement Board. Colombia, which maintained the leadership, became the largest importer of Venezuelan products by making purchases in excess of $480 million between January and June. The figures also revealed an increase in exports to Ecuador totalling 462 percent, since June of last year. (Caracas Union Radio Network in Spanish 2200 GMT 18 Sep 94)

The executive has ordered a ministerial reorganization to cut spending and observe a policy of austerity. It should be pointed out 30 percent of the slots at the Secretariat of the Presidency have been reduced. The Secretariat of the Presidency has been tasked with reorganizing the state and cutting government spending. Among the measures adopted are cuts in travel allowances, restrictions on use of autonomous entities' funding, suspension of superfluous expenditures, etc. (Caracas REPORTE DE LA ECONOMIA in Spanish 19 Sep 94)

According to data supplied by Softline Consulting firm, local deposits in commercial banks grew by 136.623 billion bolivares in the month of August. This brings total deposits in commercial banks to 1.912 trillion bolivares. Of this amount, 33.2 percent represent savings and 33.4 percent demand deposits. The Banco Provincial appeared as leader in deposits, followed by the Banco Mercantil, Banco Industrial, Banco Union, etc. (Caracas EL NACIONAL in Spanish 19 Sep 94 p E-14)

The Council of Ministers has approved a 5.4-billion bolivares increase in the trust fund between the Venezuelan Investment Fund and CADAFE. These additional resources will enable CADAFE to pay its debts with local companies and multilateral institutions. (Caracas REPORTE DE LA ECONOMIA in Spanish 19 Sep p 5)

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